

Finance chief resigns from easyJet

By **Simon Foy**

EASYJET'S finance chief has resigned just days after surviving a shareholder vote to oust him that was triggered by founder Sir Stelios Haji-Ioannou.

Andrew Findlay, who joined the budget airline in October 2015, will stay on until his notice period ends in May next year. He vowed to help boss Johan Lundgren steer the company through a global collapse in air travel triggered by efforts to fight Covid-19.

The carrier is battling to survive plunging passenger numbers and a legal assault from Sir Stelios over the direction of the company.

Mr Findlay said: "Although I have given notice to leave easyJet, I remain fully committed to the business to support Johan and to ensure easyJet successfully weathers this unprecedented time for the airline industry.

"I would like to thank the shareholders who supported me and my fellow directors in the recent general meet-

£4.5bn

The value of an order by easyJet for 24 Airbus aircraft that was deferred to try to cut costs

ing. I intend to repay that support in the coming year."

Mr Findlay was resoundingly backed by shareholders in Friday's vote, which was brought forward by Sir Stelios as part of a row over a £4.5bn order for Airbus planes. More than 99pc of votes cast by investors other than Sir Stelios and his family supported keeping Mr Findlay in his position. Mr Lundgren, chairman John Barton and non-executive director Andreas Bierwirth won similar votes.

In response to Mr Findlay's resignation, Sir Stelios said: "We are now getting closer to cancelling the Airbus contract that will save easyJet."

The carrier deferred the delivery of 24 Airbus aircraft last month in an attempt to cut costs, but Greek-Cypriot billionaire Sir Stelios believes the deliveries should be cancelled altogether.

Last week, easyJet announced it would restart some flights in the UK and France from June 15. Shares rose by nearly a fifth to 665.2p yesterday.

