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COMMERCE

XOJet boosts company growth with broker network training program

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By TRICIA CARR

Private jet company XOJet plans to bolster its broker network by offering new technology training to select members with the goal of enhancing the brand's marketing efforts to affluent consumers at all points of sale.



XOJet will group select brokers into its new Platinum Partner Network to receive tailored training, sales tools, marketing support programs and access to quoting and reservation systems, which will enable brokers to book all of the company's travel options. This exclusive broker network installation comes during a prominent growth period for the brand of more than 30 percent annually since 2010.

"As with most XOJet innovations, the origin of the Platinum Partner Network was based upon client feedback," said Stephen Lambright, senior vice president of marketing and business development at XOJet, Brisbane, CA.

"We wanted to simplify the process for clients and put more focus on the quality of the relationship they have with their service provider or advisor," he said.

"We have created a unique and compelling platform for private jet travel available in the United States and needed to find a way to align all of the elements of the service offering

to resolve conflicts and have everyone working in the best interest of the client."

Taking flight

XOJet enacted its Platinum Partner Network this week with New York-based Apollo Jets as the program's anchor.

The Platinum Partner Network will fine-tune the Apollo Jets' offerings to high-end clientele by administering technology training to select XOJet brokers.

These brokers will then be able to act as resellers for XOJet's flight programs that include fixed-price charter rates program Preferred Access, guaranteed-access program Coast2Coast and XOJet's membership program, Elite Access.

The Platinum Partner Network is looking to redefine the relationship between private jet operators and brokers, claims the brand.

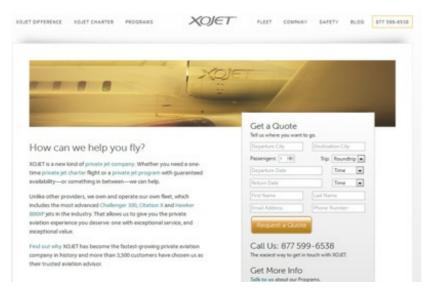
XOJet hopes to strengthen its relationship with its broker partners by creating an opportunity for only a select group to be immersed in the brand's marketing and sales tools, claims the brand.

The extensive training in XOJet's marketing systems and reservation tools will ensure that consumers receive seamless service from the company and its XOJet Platinum Partner Network in the areas of service, availability and pricing.

Up until now, XOJet's broker partners have been reselling the company's on-demand and fixed-price charter services on a per-trip basis.

"Brand value among luxury consumers goes well beyond the product," said Taylor Rains, account coordinator at Rawle Murdy Associates Inc., Charleston, SC. "The shopping experience plays an equally significant role in brand development.

"By offering a customizable and comprehensive shopping experience, XOJet demonstrates a commitment to its consumer base," he said.



XO.Jet Web site

Narrow the playing field

XOJet selected New York-based Apollo Jets to anchor the Platinum Partner Network, which may be a step to reach more consumers in the largest market in the U.S.

The brand has worked with Apollo in the past as a service broker.

XOJet could be enacting this unique broker program to bolster its services in a tight-knit industry.

In addition to its new internal marketing program, the brand kicked off its Elite Access program this year that guarantees luxury consumers access to a private jet with 12 hours' notice as an alternative to fractional jet ownership.

The program was put in place to fill a void in offerings of private jet packages to luxury consumers, claims the brand (see story).

Meanwhile, competing private aviation provider NetJets Inc. planned a joint venture called NetJets China Business Aviation Ltd. to expand its services to the Chinese luxury market (see story).

"While a [broker network] program like this may not be necessary to stand out in the current market, it certainly helps," Mr. Rains said.

"The program is all about enhancing relationships and, in the long run, those relationships become a brand's most effective way to stand out from the competition," he said.

Final Take

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