

# BIG IN JAPAN

Japan Air lines (JAL), which is experiencing a chronic shortage of pilots, has found a novel way to solve its staffing crisis: it is poaching up to 180 of them from Western Airlines like Virgin and British Airways, seducing them with promises of six figure salaries and job stability in an industry where many operators are flying on a wing and a prayer.

JAL is offering senior captains a starting salary of over \$9,000 a month before allowances, which doesn't sound bad, but when one considers that top BA pilots can earn over £100,000 a year and that most of them earn around sixty thousand, any potential recruit should weigh up the pros and cons very carefully before relocating. Especially as he is more likely to end up cooling off in Anchorage, Alaska where JAL has a base, rather than basking in the Land of the Rising Sun.