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- Order increases Boeing's 787 customer base in Middle East

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, Nov. 14, 2011 /PRNewswire/ -- Boeing (NYSE: BA) and Oman Air, Sultanate of Oman's flagship carrier, today announced an order for six Boeing 787-8s at the Dubai Airshow.

The airline completed an arrangement with Boeing and Kuwait-based leasing company ALAFCO to transfer existing orders for the six Dreamliners from ALAFCO to Oman Air.

"Our decision to order the 787-8 is part of Oman Air's long-term growth strategy to expand and modernize our fleet with newer, more fuel-efficient airplanes," said Peter Hill, chief executive officer, Oman Air. "We see direct benefits because of the Dreamliner's fuel efficiency and operating economics as well as the enhanced travel experience that Oman Air will be able to offer its customers aboard this airplane."

In addition to bringing big-jet ranges to mid-size airplanes, the 787 provides airlines with unmatched fuel efficiency using 20 percent less fuel than today's similarly sized airplanes. The key to the exceptional performance of the 787 Dreamliner is a suite of new technologies, including advanced composite materials, systems, aerodynamics and engines. Passengers will also see improvements on the 787, from an interior environment with higher humidity to increased comfort and convenience.

Since its establishment in 1993, Oman Air has witnessed massive growth and has played a major role in making Muscat an important traffic hub in the Middle East. The airline currently operates direct international flights from Muscat to 41 destinations across the Gulf, the Levant, Europe, East Africa and Asia. Oman Air's commitment to quality, comfort and a seamless passenger experience has resulted in international acclaim, including major regional and international awards and an Official 4 Star Airline (Skytrax 2011) rating.

"Boeing and Oman Air share a decade-long partnership and we look forward to opening a new chapter together with the 787 Dreamliner," said Marty Bentrott, vice president of Sales for Middle East, Russia and Central Asia, Boeing Commercial Airplanes. "We see the 787 as a perfect complement to Oman Air's growing fleet, which will enable them to serve new destinations and enhance customer experience with the world's most advanced passenger jet."

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