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Pembroke, an aircraft financing, leasing and management group based in Dublin, Ireland, today announced an order for 15 Boeing 717-200s and 15 options, bringing Pembroke's commitment to the airplane to 25 orders and 25 options. Delivery of Pembroke's first 717 is scheduled for August 2000.

"We're pleased Pembroke will play a key role in expanding the customer base of the 717, the best solution for the 100-seat airplane market," said Alan Mulally, president, Boeing Commercial Airplanes Group. "One of the major advantages of the 717 is that it's 17,000 pounds lighter than the A318 - the equivalent of 90 passengers and bags - and its trip costs are 10 percent lower. That weight difference drives fuel burn savings, lower landing fees and, lower maintenance costs," he said.

Shane Cooke, Pembroke chief executive, said this order increase represents a great opportunity to expand Pembroke's investment in Boeing airplanes. "We believe that the 717 is an excellent airplane for operators in the 100 to 125-seat high-frequency, quick-turnaround market. The 717 has up to eight percent better fuel consumption over Boeing pre-flight-test estimates and offers the latest technology. The 717 demonstration tours in Europe and Asia have been very successful and have generated additional interest in the airplane."

The 717 features the latest technology in engines and flight-deck systems for its two-person crew. It also offers a spacious interior design with extra-large, overhead stowbins, and illuminated, full-grip hand rails.

The airplane will meet the demands of airline customers and passengers in the 21st century. Two advanced BMW Rolls-Royce 715 engines power the 717-200, producing the quietest airplane in its class. The BR715 engine is 21 decibels below today's noise regulations and nearly 60 percent below current exhaust limits.

Pilots will appreciate the airplane's modern flight deck, and passengers will like its comfortable cabin interior with five-abreast seating. The typical 717-200 has 106 seats in a two-class arrangement and the largest stowbins for single-aisle airplanes.

Pembroke is based in Dublin with offices in Shannon and Amsterdam. The company manages a fleet of more than 115 airplanes leased to 30 operators in over 20 countries. Clients include airlines, lessors, manufacturers, banks and other financial institutions. Shareholders are Rolls-Royce (50 percent) and Irish investors including management.

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