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The Boeing Company today announced a firm order from China Xinjiang Airlines (CXA) for three Boeing 757-200 airplanes. The Next-Generation 737-700s currently on order with CXA will be delivered to another operator in China.

"The 757-200 has been an exceptional performer for CXA. It is ideally suited for our route network and enjoys strong passenger preference," said Zhang Ruipu, CXA president. "The tremendous economics of the airplane and the commonality with our existing 757 fleet made it the clear choice."

The new 757-200s will seat 201 total passengers in a two-class configuration. Deliveries of the airplanes are scheduled to begin in May of 2001. When delivered, the three new airplanes will join CXA's Boeing fleet of six 757-200s and two 737-300s. CXA has been a Boeing customer since 1993.

"We are delighted that CXA has once again selected the Boeing 757-200," said Ray Conner, vice president -- Asia Pacific Sales, Boeing Commercial Airplanes Group. "The 757 is very dependable and economical and will serve the airline's needs well."

CXA is the dominant carrier serving China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. The airline currently serves 61 routes, consisting of six international and 55 domestic, and operates 136 flights each week.

The Boeing 757-200, a member of the popular 757/767 family of airplanes, has the lowest seat-mile operating costs of any single-aisle airplane on the market. A twin-engine medium-to-long-range jetliner, it is known for its exceptional fuel efficiency, low noise levels and superior operating performance.

Boeing has been in China more than 28 years and there are 335 Boeing airplanes operated by 17 airlines. Boeing airplanes account for 67% of the total commercial jetliner fleet in China.

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