

Bangkok Airways First in Asia with Boeing 717-200s

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The Boeing Company today announced that Bangkok Airways will take delivery of two new Boeing 717-200s, making it the first carrier in Asia to commit to operating the economical, short-range twinjet.

Bangkok Airways will lease the two 717s from Pembroke Capital Ltd. The first airplane is scheduled for delivery in October this year. It will begin regular service in November on routes connecting Thailand to various tourist destinations in Southeast Asia such as Angkor Wat, Cambodia, Luang Prabang, Laos, and Singapore.

Bangkok Airways is one of the first private airlines in Thailand and is the first carrier to construct its own airports - Samui and Sukhothai - to accommodate passenger preference and convenience.

"The 717s will help us usher in a new era of regional travel, especially in Southeast Asia," said Dr. Prasert Prasartong-Osoth, president and CEO - Bangkok Airways. "The new airplanes will allow us to provide our passengers with superior comfort and convenience."

The 717 features a spacious interior design with extra-large overhead stowbins, and illuminated, full-grip handrails. The airplane also offers a proven durable airframe with the latest technology in engines and flight-deck systems for its two-person crew. The 717 is the quietest airplane in its class. The carrier will configure the 717s to carry 125 passengers.

"Bangkok Airways has been a leader in providing passengers with exceptional service to exotic destinations in Southeast Asia," said Ray Conner, vice president - Asia/Pacific Sales. "With the 717s, the airline will continue in that tradition with a higher level of technological advancement and efficiency."

The Boeing 717 is a simple, cost-effective airplane that is specifically designed to serve quick-turnaround, high-frequency airline markets. The airplane has accumulated a total of 143 firm orders, including airplanes already delivered to customers in the United States and Europe.

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