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The newest and largest member of the Boeing 737 family, the Next-Generation 737-900, today received its formal stamp of approval from Europe's Joint Aviation Authorities (JAA). The JAA validated the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) April 17 type certification of the 737-900.

The certification formally recognizes that the 737-900 has passed the stringent design and testing requirements mandated by the FAA and JAA, clearing the airplane for passenger service. To receive certification, two 737-900 flight-test airplanes completed 296 flights, 156 hours of ground testing and 649 hours of flight testing. The first 737-900 will be delivered to launch customer Alaska Airlines in mid-May.

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