Boeing Updates Emirates on Development Progress of 7E7 Dreamliner

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Following its first briefing last October, Boeing [NYSE:BA] presented an update on the development status of the Boeing 7E7 Dreamliner to senior executives at Emirates who have expressed a keen interest in the new superefficient airplane.

"Emirates is working closely with Boeing on the 7E7 programme just as we did during the development stages of the 777," said HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman, Emirates and President, Dubai Department of Civil Aviation, at the presentation. "Keeping abreast of technological innovations has helped us maintain our advantage in the marketplace, and as we continue our globalization and expansion programme, we see a strong possibility of the 7E7 becoming a part of the Emirates fleet."

Leading the 7E7 team, John Feren, Vice President -- Sales, Marketing & In-Service Support, Boeing 7E7 Programme, said: "The interest in the 7E7 is definitely mounting. As one of the world's leading airlines, we are excited about Emirates working with Boeing to help define the product version that would work best with Emirates' business model. Boeing's mission is to get the right mix of customers together to participate in the launch of the programme."

Boeing is currently working with more than 50 airlines around the world -- including the Middle East -- to understand their requirements and to share in the development process. Ongoing work with the airlines will help decide the specific product characteristics.

The 7E7 will carry 200-250 passengers on routes between 7,800 to 8,300 nautical miles (14,500 to 15,400 kms). In addition to bringing big-jet ranges to mid-size airplanes, the 7E7 will use 20 percent less fuel than today's airplanes of comparable size and will fly at Mach 0.85, as fast as today's fastest wide bodies. Customers will enjoy 40-60 percent more cargo revenue capacity while passengers will experience innovations ranging from a new interior environment with higher humidity to increased comfort and convenience.

The Boeing board of directors granted authority to offer the airplane for sale in late 2003. Production will begin in 2006. First flight is expected in 2007 with certification, delivery and entry into service in 2008.

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