Boeing Announces Four Providers of 787 Interior Elements

Boeing has named four suppliers of key interior elements for its all-new 787 Dreamliner passenger airplane.

"Our interior components are what passengers will most come in contact with on our airplane," said Mike Bair, vice president and general manager of the 787 program. "We have selected our providers carefully because we know how important their contributions will be to creating a better flying experience for our customers' customers."

Germany's Diehl Luftfahrt Elektronik will provide the 787's main cabin lighting. With this completely new solid-state light emitting diode (LED) lighting system, it will be possible to create various moods in the 787 cabin, from sunrise to sunset, making travel a more comfortable and relaxing experience. At the same time, LED technology offers additional advantages regarding lower maintenance costs and longer intervals between unscheduled repairs.

The Dreamliner lavatories will be supplied by Jamco, based in Japan. Boeing is teaming with Jamco on innovative lavatory features to help make passengers more comfortable and the lavatories more functional. Concepts being evaluated include a diaper changing station, new antibacterial surfaces, a window and a number of space-saving features.

Northwest Composites Inc., an affiliate of C&D Aerospace, will provide 787 sidewalls, window reveals, cargo linings, door linings and door surrounds. The Washington-based company also helped to create the 767's New Look Interior.

Securaplane, based in Arizona, will provide the wireless emergency lighting system. The 787 will be the first commercial jet airplane to feature wireless emergency lighting as a basic system.

The 787 is a family of airplanes carrying 200 to 300 passengers on routes between 3,500 and 8,500 nautical miles (6,500 to 16,000 kilometers). The 787 will allow airlines to offer more of what passengers want: affordable, comfortable, nonstop travel to more destinations.

The 787 was launched in April 2004 with an ANA (All Nippon Airways) firm order for 50 airplanes. Production will begin in 2006. First flight is expected in 2007 with certification, delivery and entry into service in 2008.

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