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Cargolux, Sojitz Corp. will partner with EIA on European, Japanese routes

The Boeing Company [NYSE: BA] announced today that it has selected Evergreen International Airlines, Inc. to operate the 747 Large Cargo Freighter (LCF) fleet, comprising specially modified 747-400 jets that will transport major assemblies for the all-new Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

Evergreen International Airlines, Inc. (EIA) is a subsidiary of Evergreen International Aviation, Inc. and has performed passenger and cargo services around the globe for more than 30 years. EIA has overall responsibility for the operation of the LCF fleet. It will fly routes to and from the U.S. and Japan.

Evergreen has named Cargolux as a subcontractor to fly routes from Europe. Cargolux currently operates a fleet of 14 747-400 freighters. Sojitz Corp. of America has been chosen by Evergreen to coordinate logistics and other services for Japanese routes. Sojitz will establish an overall plan for receiving and transporting 787 components from Boeing's Japanese partners, and will be the interface between Centrair and Nagoya airports.

"Evergreen International Airlines is an expert in its field, with nearly a half million hours of 747 experience," said 787 Vice President of Airplane Production Scott Strode. "We have complete confidence that EIA -- in partnership with Cargolux and Sojitz -- will meet the aggressive schedule required to transport Dreamliner components around the world."

Boeing will use three Large Cargo Freighters as the primary means of transporting major 787 assemblies to its Everett, Wash., final assembly site from partners around the world. "We thrive on the challenge of transporting unusual cargo," said Brian Bauer, president of EIA. "Operating these amazing airplanes for Boeing is a unique opportunity and we're proud to play a role in the development of the 787."

The 747s are being modified at Evergreen Aviation Technologies Corp., in Taipei, Taiwan. Modification of the first airplane began last June and is progressing well. The upper fuselage and interior structure have been completely removed to make way for the build-up of the airplane with its enlarged upper fuselage. This assembly began earlier this month with the installation of an all-new pressure bulkhead. The second airplane was inducted for modification in October. First flight is scheduled for mid-2006 followed by flight test and certification. The first LCFs will enter service in 2007 in support of Dreamliner production.

Evergreen International Airlines is one of several subsidiaries of Evergreen International Aviation, Inc., based in McMinnville, Ore., a privately-held global aviation services company. Evergreen Aviation Technologies Corp. is a joint venture between EVA Air and General Electric and part of Taiwan's Evergreen Group, specializing in engineering, maintenance, repair and overhaul operations, and is based in Tayuan, Taiwan. The two companies are not related.

More information:

The 787 is an all-new family of mid-sized airplanes that will provide exceptional fuel efficiencies for airlines and superior comfort for passengers. It enters service in 2008. Boeing has 354 announced commitments for the 787 from 26 airlines worldwide, including 241 firm orders.

Based in McMinnville, Ore. Evergreen International Aviation, Inc. is a privately-held global aviation services company that is active through several subsidiary companies. Evergreen is recognized as a world leader in air freight and aviation services with a broad base of customers including other air carriers, aviation companies and governmental agencies.

Cargolux, headquartered in Luxembourg, is one of the leading cargo airlines worldwide, operating scheduled and charter services on a network covering all continents. Cargolux is currently the largest all-cargo airline in Europe.

Sojitz Corp. of America is the U.S. subsidiary of Sojitz Corp., based in Tokyo. The company does billions of dollars of global trade business a year. It also provides export and import services and various types of trade finance.

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