Etihad Airways Celebrates Delivery of First Boeing 777-300ER

UAE airline will take delivery of four additional 777s in 2006

Etihad Airways first Arab carrier offering Connexion by Boeing high-speed Internet and live television service

Etihad Airways today hosted Boeing personnel, invited guests and media to celebrate the induction of the airline's first 777-300ER into its fleet. Etihad's newest addition to its twin-aisle fleet arrived Monday after a direct flight from Paine Field in Everett, Wash., a trip of approximately 15 hours.

"The arrival of this impressive new Boeing 777-300 ER aircraft is a defining moment in Etihad's history," said Robert Strodel, CEO, Etihad Airways. "The aircraft has been designed to Etihad specifications, and will provide our guests with higher standards of hospitality and service across our expanding international network."

Etihad Airways plans to utilize its new 777-300ER flagship and the additional airplanes to provide service on new long haul routes. The new airplanes' capacity and range will facilitate the airline's expansion to new routes in Asia, Africa, Europe and North America.

"Looking at airlines across the globe, the 777 has become today's premier twin-aisle airplane of choice and we are pleased to count Etihad as yet another world-class airline flying this remarkable airplane," said Lee Monson, Boeing Commercial Airplanes vice president of Sales for the Middle East and Africa. "I know I speak for the entire Boeing team when I say that we're honored to be here in attendance to witness this tribute for the first Etihad 777-300ER."

The Boeing 777 has consistently exceeded its initial performance specifications and is continually selected by passengers as the most preferred airplane in its class. To date, 44 airlines around the world have placed 827 firm orders for the 777. The 777-300ER is the world's largest long-range twin-engine jetliner and is capable of carrying 365 passengers up to 7,880 nautical miles (14,594 kilometers) while burning 24 percent less fuel per passenger than the competition.

Since its launch in 2003, Etihad Airways has earned a reputation for excellence and its determination to build a national carrier operating out of Abu Dhabi that rivals the world's best international carriers. With a focus on providing the utmost in comfort and service to its guests, Etihad has also become the first Middle East carrier to incorporate Connexion by Boeing, a high speed, in-flight Internet service that is at the forefront of providing global Internet connectivity and live television to the flying public.

"We are truly excited to have Etihad as the launch customer for Connexion by Boeing service in the Gulf region," said Connexion by Boeing President Laurette Koellner. "Etihad is demonstrating its vision and leadership within the industry by introducing the latest communication technology that will further enhance the passenger experience, while also ensuring access to the latest news, information and entertainment content while airborne."

###

For further information:
Brian Walker
Middle East & Africa Communications
(206) 766-2929
Chuck Cadena
777 Program Communications
(425) 294-6105
Terrance Scott
Connexion by Boeing
(206) 655-9350