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The Boeing Company [NYSE: BA] and Bavaria International Aircraft Leasing today announced the delivery of the company's first Next-Generation 737-800. New Delhi, India-based Air Sahara will operate the airplane.

Bavaria, based in Munich, Germany, has a variety of Boeing airplanes on lease to operators around the globe, including 11 737-300s, six 737-700s and five 717-200s. Bavaria will take delivery of a second 737-800 later this month.

"The 737 is the preferred jetliner among our leasing customers," said Karsten Sensen, chief executive officer of Bavaria. "The 737-800's efficiency and reliability are attractive to airlines, and the airplane's residual value makes it an excellent investment."

Bavaria, a wholly owned subsidiary of the privately owned Schörghuber Group, is the world's largest privately owned aircraft leasing firm.

"This delivery represents another important milestone in Boeing's 27-year partnership with Bavaria," said John Ferer, vice president of Sales, Boeing Commercial Airplanes. "The popular Boeing 737-800 will be an excellent addition to the Bavaria fleet."

The digitally designed Next-Generation 737 is the most technologically advanced airplane family in the single-aisle market. The 737-800, which can seat between 162 to 189 passengers, is 1,500 pounds lighter, can fly 260 nautical miles farther and 1,100 feet higher while carrying 12 more passengers than the competing model.

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