Boeing Adds KLM Order for Three 737s and One 777 to Order Book

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, part of the Air France/KLM Group, has exercised options for three Boeing [NYSE: BA] Next-Generation 737-800s. The airplanes, with a value of $212 million at list prices, will be delivered in 2008.

KLM and Boeing also announced a contract for a fourth 777-300ER. This will be the 19th 777 in KLM's fleet, equipped with General Electric GE-90 engines. The airplane has a list price value of $250 million. The 777 order was booked previously on Boeing's Orders and Deliveries website, attributed to an unidentified customer.

Including the new 737 order, KLM will operate a fleet totaling 29 Next-Generation 737s, a combination of -800 and -900 models, of which 19 are currently operating in the KLM fleet. Deliveries will continue through 2008. KLM also operates 27 737-300s and 737-400s.

The 737-800, the best-selling version of the successful Next-Generation 737 family, incorporates an advanced-technology wing design that helps increase fuel capacity and efficiency, both of which increase range. The 737-800 is powered by CFM56-7 engines produced by CFMI, a joint venture of General Electric Co. of the U.S. and Snecma of France. The engines meet community noise restrictions well below current Stage 3 limits and below expected Stage 4 limits.

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For further information:
Mike Tull
London
+ 44 7920 571 654
Vicky Ray
Seattle
+1 425-965-9382
Debbie Heathers
Seattle
+ 1 425-294-6102