Boeing, Mexicana Group Agree to 25-Airplane 717 Leasing Deal

SEATTLE, March 09, 2009 -- Boeing [NYSE: BA] and Mexicana Group today announced a lease agreement for 25 Boeing 717-200 airplanes to be used by Mexicana's Click operation.

Under a multi-year arrangement, MexicanaClick will begin receiving the 717s from Boeing Capital Corporation in March, making Mexicana the first North American 717 operator outside the U.S. Boeing Capital is the world's largest lease provider of the modern, fuel-efficient twin jet.

In addition to the airplanes, Boeing through its Commercial Aviation Services group will provide training for flight crew, cabin crew and maintenance staff as well as spare parts provisioning. In total this approach represents a comprehensive Boeing solution to Mexicana Group's fleet renewal needs.

"With these 25 airplanes, we give a strong boost to MexicanaClick and a better way to improve the passengers' experience and the airline's operating efficiency to maintain its leadership both in quality of equipment as well as on-board services," said Manuel Borja, Mexicana Group director general.

The Boeing 717 has distinguished itself in service to nine airlines on four continents. Designed for quick turnaround, high-frequency and short- range markets (up to 1,500 nautical miles), the 717 offers big-jet passenger comfort with the lowest noise and emissions in its class. The Rolls Royce-powered 717s will replace Fokker F-100s operated by the airline.

"At a time when economic conditions pose challenges to airline operators and travelers, the 717 offers a wealth of value--greater fuel efficiency, lower maintenance costs, a modern flight deck and spacious interior," said Tim Myers, Boeing Capital Corp. vice president for structured financing. "We're pleased to join forces with Mexicana to bring the 717 to the region."

Click's 717 fleet will be configured to carry 104 passengers with 20 in Mexicana Elite class, with two-by-two seating, allowing all passengers to enjoy either aisle or window seats, and 84 in tourist class where the five-abreast, wide leather seats will appeal to travelers.

Boeing and Mexicana have worked together for decades. The airline was among the world's largest operators of the Boeing 727 and its current long-haul routes depend on the Boeing 767.

"We congratulate MexicanaClick on joining the ranks of airlines that depend on the 717's high dispatch reliability and low maintenance costs to compete successfully," said Ihssane Mounir, vice president for Latin American sales, Boeing Commercial Airplanes. "Add to that a quiet and fuel-efficient airplane, with great comfort and passenger appeal and an average fleet age of less than five years, and the result is a great platform to grow Click's market success."

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