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Crowds celebrate 787's debut landing in Asia

TOKYO, July 4, 2011 [/PRNewswire/](#) -- Boeing (NYSE: BA) and ANA today began an important validation of their readiness for the 787 Dreamliner's entry into service.

Throughout the coming days, ANA pilots, together with Boeing, will fly a 787 on actual airline routes in Japan using airline dispatch and flight rules. ANA's mechanics and ground crews also will gain experience with the airplane in a simulated operational environment.

"ANA is proud to be the first airline in the world that will operate the 787," said Shinichiro Ito, ANA president and CEO. "The Dreamliner is an integral part of our plans to become Asia's number one airline and will allow us to bring new standards of comfort and service to our passengers. Validating all of our training and preparations for the Dreamliner is critical to help ensure a smoother entry into service for our passengers and crews later this year."

The 787 debuted in Asia yesterday with a landing at Haneda Airport in Tokyo at 6:21 a.m. (local time). More than a thousand media, ANA employees and aviation enthusiasts gathered to witness the 787's arrival and welcome ANA pilots Captains Masayuki Ishii and Masami Tsukamoto and Boeing pilots Captains Mike Carriker, Heather Ross and Ted Grady. Sporting ANA's livery, the 787 flight test airplane ZA002 flew non-stop to Tokyo from Seattle.

"Boeing is honored to celebrate the historic first landing of the 787 Dreamliner in Japan, home of our launch customer ANA and many of our 787 partners," said Jim Albaugh, president and CEO of Boeing Commercial Airplanes. "ANA is a tremendous airline, and the 787 is a better airplane because of their input and involvement in the program."

Throughout the week-long validation, the 787 will experience simulated day-to-day airline operations. Maintenance, servicing and flight crew operations will be conducted at five airports in Tokyo, Osaka (Itami and Kansai), Okayama and Hiroshima. ANA's first scheduled service with the 787 will be either the Haneda-Okayama or Haneda-Hiroshima route when deliveries begin later this year.

ANA has 55 Dreamliners on order. ANA will deploy the 787 across its route network as an integral part of its strategy to strengthen its position and support its growth and expansion plans.

Boeing plans to deliver the first 787 to ANA in the August to September timeframe.

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