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Korean Air becomes first airline in the world to operate both freighter types

EVERETT, Wash., Feb. 6, 2012 /PRNewswire/ -- Boeing (NYSE: BA) and Korean Air today celebrated delivery of the airline's first 747-8 and 777 Freighters. With the milestone delivery, Korean Air becomes the first airline in the world to operate both the 747-8 and 777 Freighters.

"We are very proud to become the first airline in the world to have the combined strengths of these two freighters in its fleet," said Yang Ho Cho, chairman of Korean Air. "Our cargo fleet is being improved by these fuel-saving planes. They can help reduce carbon emissions by 17 percent and this supports our goal to be a responsible citizen of the world."

Korea's flagship carrier is the first Boeing customer to order both variations of the new 747-8 airplane and is also a key supplier partner on this new airplane program.

"Boeing is honored to celebrate this historic delivery with YH Cho and the Korean Air family," said Jim Albaugh, president and CEO of Boeing Commercial Airplanes. "It is hard to imagine reaching this day without the leadership of YH and his vision to transform Korean Air into one of the best global airlines in the world."

The 747-8 Freighter offers a range of 4,390 nautical miles (8,130 km) and a maximum structural payload capacity of 148 tons (134 tonnes), while offering an additional 4,221 cubic feet (120 m3) and 16 percent more revenue cargo volume than the 747-400 Freighter.

The twin-engine Boeing 777 Freighter is the most fuel-efficient airplane with leading economic and environmental performance in its category. It has a cargo capacity of 103 metric tons (113 tons) with a range of 9,038 kilometers (4,880 nautical miles).

Korean Air plans to operate the 747-8 Freighter on its transpacific route, with stops in Osaka and Narita, Japan, Los Angeles and San Francisco. The 777 Freighter is Korean Air's first twin-engine freighter and will allow the airline to open up new markets in Europe, including Vienna, Frankfurt and London.

About Korean Air:

Korean Air, with a fleet of 142 aircraft, is one of the world's top 20 airlines, and operates almost 400 flights per day to 119 cities in 40 countries. It is a founding member of the SkyTeam alliance, which together with its 14 members, offers its 487 million annual passengers a worldwide system of more than 14,000 daily flights covering 926 destinations in 173 countries.

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