Boeing, China Airlines Announce Order for Six 777s

- Order marks the first 777 purchase for China Airlines

TAIPEI, Taiwan, Dec. 21, 2012 /PRNewswire/ -- Boeing [NYSE: BA] and China Airlines today announced an order for six 777-300ERs (Extended Range) airplanes. The order, which is valued at approximately $2 billion at list prices, includes purchase rights for four additional 777-300ERs. The new airplanes will become the first 777s to join China Airlines' fleet.

"The introduction of the 777-300ER into our fleet is another important step toward growing our global operations and enhancing our product offering," said Huang-Hsiang Sun, president of China Airlines. "The 777-300ER sets the standard for twin-aisle airplanes with improved reliability and airplane performance. Our new 777-300ER airplanes will feature new interiors that will enhance the flying experience for our passengers."

Taiwan's flag carrier is in the midst of renewing its long-haul fleet and plans to operate the new 777-300ERs on new trans-Pacific flights between North America and Asia. The new airplanes will help the airline enhance its status as the largest airline in Taiwan and a leading global carrier.

"China Airlines has been a valued Boeing customer for more than 50 years and we are honored the airline has chosen the 777-300ER to expand its long-haul fleet," said Ray Conner, president and CEO of Boeing Commercial Airplanes. "The introduction of the new 777-300ERs will provide China Airlines with new state-of-the-art cabin interiors, while adding improved airplane performance and economics to its long haul fleet."

The Boeing 777 is the world's most successful twin-engine, long-haul airplane and it continues to be preferred by airlines around the world, setting a record of 200 airplane orders in 2011. It is 19 percent lighter than its closest competitor, produces 22 percent less carbon dioxide per seat and costs 20 percent less to operate per seat. China Airlines will configure its 777-300ERs to accommodate more than 350 passengers in a three-class configuration and has a maximum range of 7,825 nautical miles (14,490 km).

In addition to the Boeing order for six 777-300ERs, China Airlines also will lease four 777-300ERs from GE Capital Aviation Services (GECAS). China Airlines currently operates 23 Boeing passenger airplanes consisting of 747-400s and 737-800s, and 21 Boeing cargo aircraft consisting of 747-400Fs.

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