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SEATTLE, July 18, 2016 /PRNewswire/ -- Boeing [NYSE:BA] and Microsoft [NASDAQ: MSFT] today announced an agreement to build a cloud-based platform for Boeing's industry-leading portfolio of commercial aviation analytics tools.

The two companies intend to work together to transition many of Boeing's commercial aviation applications into the Microsoft Azure cloud.

Boeing – and its subsidiaries AerData and Jeppesen – offer a wide portfolio of advanced analytics tools currently used by more than 300 airlines to optimize operating efficiency.

"Boeing's expertise and extensive aviation data resources coupled with Microsoft's cloud technology will accelerate innovation in areas such as predictive maintenance and flight optimization, allowing airlines to drive down costs and improve operational efficiency," said Kevin Crowley, Boeing vice president of Digital Aviation. "Together, two companies that changed their industries are teaming up to accelerate the digital transformation of aviation through the use of analytics-based applications, cloud technologies and large-scale integration."

Boeing's applications provide airlines, airplane leasing companies and maintenance suppliers with real-time information to enhance every phase of their operations – including purchasing and leasing airplanes and engines, training and scheduling crews, route planning, managing inventory and maintaining fleets.

"At Microsoft, we are focused on empowering organizations across industries to advance their digital transformation," said Judson Althoff, executive vice president, Worldwide Commercial Business, Microsoft. "Working with Boeing, we can help businesses across aviation to become more adaptive, innovative and intelligence-driven, including airlines, operators, suppliers, support, and service providers."

Every day, customers use Boeing applications to reduce crew scheduling costs as much as 7 percent, and save hundreds of pounds of fuel on every flight. Boeing applications deliver digital navigational information to nearly 13,000 aircraft daily. Advanced airplane health solutions – currently used on more than 3,800 airplanes operating around the globe – allow customers to use real-time data to optimize operational performance, fuel use, maintenance, and supply chain performance.

Contact:

Mike Pound

Communications

+1-303-328-4777

michael.pound@jeppesen.com

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