Boeing T-X Completes First Flight, Validates Design for Air Force Requirements

Milestone proves the aircraft's low risk, maturity and safety

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 20, 2016 – Boeing [NYSE: BA] and partner Saab [Stockholm: SAABB] today completed the first flight of their all-new T-X aircraft, which is designed specifically for the U.S. Air Force's training requirements.

During the 55-minute flight, lead T-X Test Pilot Steven Schmidt and Chief Pilot for Air Force Programs Dan Draeger, who was in the seat behind Schmidt, validated key aspects of the single-engine jet and demonstrated the performance of the low-risk design.

"I've been a part of this team since the beginning, and it was really exciting to be the first to train and fly," Schmidt said. "The aircraft met all expectations. It's well designed and offers superior handling characteristics. The cockpit is intuitive, spacious and adjustable, so everything is within easy reach."

"It was a smooth flight and a successful test mission," Draeger added. "I had a great all-around view throughout the flight from the instructor's seat, which is critical during training."

Both pilots trained for the flight using the complete Boeing T-X system, which includes ground-based training and simulation.

With one engine, twin tails, stadium seating and an advanced cockpit with embedded training, the Boeing T-X is more affordable and flexible than older, existing aircraft.

Boeing and Saab revealed their first two T-X aircraft in September. The second is currently in ground testing and expected to fly in early 2017.

T-X will replace the Air Force's aging T-38 aircraft. Initial operating capability is planned for 2024.

Get the latest Boeing T-X updates at www.boeing.com/t-x or by searching #NewBoeingTX on Twitter. Media can also access photos and video of the first flight at http://bds.navigon.net; user name: TX_2016; password: TX4USAF; folder: T-X. Continue to check back for updated content.

Swedish defense and security company Saab serves the global market with world-leading products, services and solutions ranging from military defense to civil security. Saab has operations and employees on all continents and constantly develops, adopts and improves new technology to meet customers' changing needs. Saab is a $4 billion business with approximately 14,000 employees in about 35 countries. Follow us on Twitter: @Saab.

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