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- New 737-800 passenger-to-freighter conversion line will bring facility employee count to 130 upon opening in 2022
- They join 100 Boeing employees elsewhere in the Crawley area, including at Boeing's largest combined training centre outside the United States
- Icelase will be the launch customer for London Gatwick, announcing an order for 11 737-800 Boeing Converted Freighters

LONDON, Nov. 14, 2021 – Boeing [NYSE:BA] is bringing a new line of work to its state-of-the-art Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul (MRO) facility at London Gatwick airport, modifying 737-800 commercial aircraft into Boeing Converted Freighters and increasing its footprint in the Crawley area.

“This new work for London Gatwick not only is a result of the cargo demand we’re seeing worldwide, but also because of the aviation industry’s valued position in the United Kingdom,” said Sir Martin Donnelly, president of Boeing Europe and managing director of Boeing in the UK and Ireland. “From Lossiemouth to Sheffield to Gosport to Crawley, Boeing’s footprint in the UK across defence, commercial and services is robust and growing, and today’s announcement is yet another in recent weeks that demonstrates our partnership here.”

The London Gatwick MRO facility, a £100 million investment completed shortly before the Covid-19 pandemic began, will perform its first freighter conversion for the launch customer Icelase, which announced its first order for 11 737-800 Boeing Converted Freighters at the Dubai Airshow today.

Stewart Wingate, chief executive officer, Gatwick Airport, said: “Boeing has made a significant investment at Gatwick by building an impressive new hanger and their new freighter conversion line provides another welcome boost for the airport, for the local people who will work there and for the region’s economy. Boeing’s new line will help meet expected strong demand to convert aircraft into freighters that can carry cargo, which reflects our forecasts that cargo volumes handled at Gatwick could also increase significantly if our future airport plans are realised.”

The conversion line, which will bring the total facility employee count to 130 upon opening, will be located near Boeing’s Gatwick Training Campus, where an additional 100 Boeing employees are based, along with nine full flight simulators, making it the company’s largest combined training centre outside the United States. Across the UK, Boeing has 2,600 employees and spends £2 billion per year in the country’s supply chain.

The Member of Parliament for Crawley, Henry Smith MP, said: “I welcome this exciting news for our constituency. This new line of work is part of a £100 million investment at London Gatwick, increasing Boeing’s already considerable footprint of highly skilled, enduring jobs in the Crawley area, the benefit of which will be felt by many.”

Boeing forecasts 1,720 freighter conversions will be needed over the next 20 years to meet demand. Of those, 1,200 will be standard-body conversions, with nearly 20 percent of that demand coming from European carriers.

The 737-800BCF is the standard body freighter market leader with more than 200 orders and commitments from 19 customers. The 737-800BCF offers higher reliability, lower fuel consumption, lower operating costs per trip and world-class in-service technical support compared to other standard body freighters.

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About Boeing in the United Kingdom: Boeing is the world’s largest aerospace company and leading provider of commercial airplanes, defence, space and security systems, and global services. The company supports commercial and government customers in more than 150 countries, and leverages the talents of a global supplier base. Boeing has a UK workforce of 2,600 direct employees across the country and spends £2 billion a year in the UK supply chain. For more information, visit www.boeing.co.uk or follow us on Twitter [@BoeingUK](https://twitter.com/BoeingUK).

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