



## **Qatar Airways places \$1.4b Boeing orders**

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**DUBAI — Qatar Airways and Boeing have signed an agreement to buy five long-haul Boeing 777s aircraft three 777 Freighters and two 777-300ERs —in a deal worth \$1.4 billion at list prices.**

The new order comes on the heels of Qatar Airways, one of the fastest growing carriers in the world, taking delivery of its 25th 777 last week. It also coincides with the launch of the 100th destination by the airline on April 6 to the Syrian city of Aleppo.

The announcement about the new order was made on the sidelines of the Business & Investment in Qatar Forum in New York in the presence of Shaikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabor Al Thani, Qatar's Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, US Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood and the US Ambassador to Qatar, Ambassador Joseph LeBaron.

Akbar Al Baker, Qatar Airways' chief executive and Tony Valentine, sales director, Boeing Commercial Airplanes, signed the agreement.

The 777 freighter order was previously accounted for on Boeing's Orders and Deliveries website as unidentified in 2010. The 777-300ER order was previously accounted for on the Orders and Deliveries website in 2011.

The investment forum, of which Boeing is one of the sponsors, aims to promote Qatar's emerging role as a political, economic and cultural hub in the Middle East.

"Qatar Airways has made a significant commitment to the 777, an airplane which has become the flagship of our fleet," said Akbar Al Baker. "The capacity of the Boeing 777 Freighter is unrivaled and its economics make it an attractive addition to our fleet. It's an opportune time to be introducing more cargo capacity to our fleet. As the State of Qatar and other parts of the region are growing at a phenomenal pace, we are well positioned to take advantage of this growth."

"The confidence that Qatar Airways continues to place in the 777 is testimony to the outstanding success of this airplane and Qatar Airways' business model. We look forward to a continued partnership as Qatar Airways expands its position on the international stage," said Marlin Dailey, vice president of Sales & Marketing, Boeing Commercial Airplanes. "Today's order is not just an agreement between Boeing and Qatar Airways but underlines the strategic relationship that the USA and Qatar have forged on the

industrial and economic front.”

Qatar Airways currently operates eight ultra-long range 777-200LR, 15 777-300ERs and two long-range 777 freighters. Last week, the airline took delivery of its 25th 777.

The Chicago-based aerospace giant says its 777 is the world’s most successful twin-engine, long-haul airplane. It claims the fuel-efficient plane is 19 percent lighter than its closest competitor and operating costs are 20 percent lower per seat.

**Stephen Vella, Qatar Airways’ management advisor, told Khaleej Times that the carrier would place more Boeing 777 orders. The Boeing 777-300ERs are used on services across Europe, Middle East, South Asia, Far East and North America. The Boeing 777 is one the world’s most technologically advanced aircraft, and will help Qatar Airways to further expand its business and support projected growth in long-haul markets.**

Boeing in its latest aviation outlook says Middle East carriers are on track to collectively spend \$390 billion to acquire 2,340 new aircraft to keep pace with an average 7.1 per cent traffic growth over the next 18 years.

“Thanks to the world’s three fastest-growing carriers — Emirates, Etihad and Qatar Airways — the region is set to boost its long haul capacity by 140,000 seats over the next 18 years, far outstripping projected capacity growth in Europe and Asia,” Michael Warner, Director of Marketing for Boeing Commercial Airplanes, has said. —[issacjohn@khaleejtimes.com](mailto:issacjohn@khaleejtimes.com)