

Press Release

KENYA AIRWAYS, BOEING FINALISE ORDER FOR NINE 787 DREAMLINERS

Pride of Africa to also consider an option of taking Four Extra 787-8s

Nairobi April 14, 2011 Kenya Airways, The Pride of Africa, and Boeing have reached a settlement agreement on the delayed delivery of the 9 Boeing 787-8 Dreamliners. Kenya Airways signed a purchase agreement in 2006 for 9 firm Boeing 787-8 aircraft also taking an option to purchase 4 additional 787-8 aircraft.

The first Dreamliner which was expected to enter into Kenya Airways service in October 2010 is now expected to be delivered by the fourth quarter of 2013. The airline has also re-affirmed its intention to exercise the option of purchasing four more 787-8 after the initial delivery of the nine aircraft.

The Dreamliners will come in at a time that the airline predicts a momentous growth in passenger and cargo demand and a rapidly expanding route network.

Speaking after signing the agreement, Kenya Airways Group Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Titus Naikuni announced the airline plans of flying out of every African Capital by 2013.

“The 787 Dreamliner fits well with our expansion strategy, giving us an opportunity to expand our markets beyond the current offering while cementing our mandate of connecting Africa to the World and World to Africa through our hub at JKIA; by increasing our network and frequency increment across Africa,” said Dr. Naikuni.

He adds, “Today marks a major milestone for us in our fleet modernization program,” noting that the confirmation of the 787 delivery was very much in line with KQ’s strategy to grow its network. “We can only achieve our expansion strategy with the right equipment and we are particularly pleased with Boeing, that despite the delay experienced in the 787 program they have committed to the timelines that we have now signed on,” noted Dr. Naikuni. The 787-8 will be used to replace the ageing 767 aircraft as well as open up new long range routes.

Speaking after signing on behalf of Boeing, Africa Sales Director Rob Faye noted that passengers would enjoy the Dreamliner’s innovative new interior environment with higher humidity, wider seats and aisles, and larger windows thus greatly improving the overall flying experience. “For the airplane attributes, passengers will experience a more comfortable cabin with higher pressurization and higher humidity ensuring more comfort,” said Mr. Faye.

“We are proud to be associated with Kenya Airways and glad that despite the delay this partnership is only bound to grow better as it is based on mutual respect and trust that we work together to ensure the airline’s continued success,” added Mr. Faye.

The 787 is a family of airplanes carrying between 200 to 300 passengers on routes between 3,500 and 8,500 nautical miles (6,500 to 16,000 kilometers). The Dreamliners will use significantly less fuel than today’s airplanes of comparable size and will provide operators with up to 45 percent more cargo revenue capacity.

Kenya Airways was the first carrier to purchase and operate the Boeing 777 in sub-Saharan Africa, and was the third major Africa airline to order the 787 Dreamliner.

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