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JetBlue firms 40 A320neo order, posts \$35 million profit for quarter



JetBlue has firmed up its order for 40 A320neo aircraft previously announced as an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) at this year's Paris Airshow. The airline has also converted 30 of its pre-existing orders for the A320 to the larger A321 version.

For the third quarter, JetBlue posted a net profit of \$35 million, a 40 per cent drop from the year ago profit of \$59 million.

There was a 16 per cent rise in operating revenues, to \$1.2 billion, but operating expenses also grew 22 per cent, primarily due to fuel costs. The airline estimated that cancellations due to Hurricane Irene cost the company approximately \$8 million.

"We are pleased to report another profitable quarter, particularly in light of a \$162 million year over year increase in fuel expense," said Dave Barger, JetBlue's President and Chief Executive Officer. "Despite challenging economic conditions and severe weather, we generated record revenues while reducing non-fuel unit costs. These results demonstrate that our business plan is working and are a testament to the outstanding efforts of our crewmembers."

Revenues up nine per cent at Boeing Commercial



Boeing Commercial Airplanes third-quarter revenue increased by nine percent to \$9.5 billion on higher deliveries and improved mix. Operating margin was 11.4 percent, reflecting continued strong operating performance.

The company pointed out that at the end of the reporting period, the B787 had received 821 firm commitments with approximately 200 options. During the quarter the B737 MAX (*pictured*) was launched, nearly 500 commitments having been received for the new engine variant of Boeing's most successful model.

It booked 255 net orders during the three months (426 during the first nine months). Backlog

“remains strong” with more than 3,500 aircraft valued at \$273 billion. However, Boeing Commercial reduced its deliveries guidance to “approximately 480, down from between 485 and 495, on lower planned deliveries on development programs (now a combined 15 to 20 787 and 747-8 units, from 25 to 30 units). Approximately two-thirds of the development programs deliveries are anticipated to be 747-8s”.

Transaero to be next A380 customer ?



Transaero Airlines is expected to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Airbus today for a supply of A380s, according to Air Transport World, quoting “a well placed source”.

It was already known that the Russian carrier was looking at the A380 and the B747-8 as replacements for its older B747s.

If Transaero does sign an MoU, it would make it the first airline operator of the aircraft in Russia and the CIS.

China latest to demonstrate biofuel



China's first aeroplane demonstration test using sustainable aviation biofuel took place today at Beijing Capital International Airport. An Air China operated B747-400 was used in the test using a 50:50 mix of oil derived from the jatropha plant and conventional aviation fuel.

Photograph courtesy of Air China

Piece of Aviation History for October 28

No notable anniversaries for today

Quote of the Day

The greatest mistake you can make in life is to be continually fearing you will make one.
Elbert Hubbard (1856 - 1915)

A Bit of Light Relief

You know your boyfriend is in love with you when he loses interest in his car for a couple of days.