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Boeing forecasts \$760 billion market for new aircraft in North America



Boeing is forecasting that the North American market will take delivery of 7,530 new aircraft worth \$760 billion, over the next 20 years.

The airframer said that if retirements are taken into account, the airliner fleet for the region will increase from the current 6,610 to about 9,330 by 2030 with demand focused mainly on 'single-aisles'. Boeing explained that this will be due to airlines being "driven by the need to replace aging airplanes with new, more fuel-efficient airplanes".

"The North American commercial aviation market improved for a second consecutive year with passenger traffic growth at a modest three percent," said Randy Tinseth, vice president of Marketing, Boeing Commercial Airplanes, "The region's airline industry is poised for long-term, moderate growth. Airlines are expected to continue focusing on capacity discipline and improving financial performance".

LAN, TAM appeal against conditions, still expect merger to be completed early 2012



LAN Airlines and TAM have announced that they are to appeal to Chile's Supreme Court over some of the 11 conditions imposed by the country's anti-trust body, the TDLC.

In a joint statement the airlines said that they "consider three of the measures are illegal and unconstitutional in certain aspects". The three conditions involve code-shares, the disposal of some flights via Lima and "surveillance" requirements.

However, they believe that the appeal will not prevent the continuation of the merger process which is still expected to be completed "by the end of the first quarter 2012".

PAL Airlines has also revealed that it is to appeal to the Supreme Court over the merger. The domestic carrier had its complaint rejected by the Constitutional Court at the beginning of last month

President of airBaltic stands down



As expected, Bertolt Flick has decided to stand down from the role President and CEO of airBaltic

The decision is part of an agreement between the Latvian Government and Baltic Aviation Systems, the airline's two main shareholders, to increase their stakeholding by approximately \$200 million.

Flick described the last few months as being very difficult" and said that he had agreed to step down "for the future of the airline".

IAG not ruling out low cost carrier



Willie Walsh, CEO of International Airlines Group (IAG), has said in an interview with UK publication Marketing Week, that the possibility of either owning or launching a low cost carrier had not been ruled out. "We would launch low cost if it makes sense", he said "We assess any opportunity to see if it will add value to the group".

Piece of Aviation History for October 5



1931 - Hugh Herndon and Clyde Pangborn make the first non-stop flight across the Pacific Ocean, from Samushiro Beach, Japan, to Wenatchee, Washington in 41 hours in a Bellanca Skyrocket, 'Miss Veedol'.

They had to be extremely precise with their calculations for the flight, leaving no margin for error. The aircraft had to be overweight with fuel, 950 gallons compared to the manufacturer's limit of 650 gallons, and they would have to jettison their landing

gear after take-off to reduce drag.

They took off from Sabishiro Beach with the intention of flying to Seattle, Washington, a distance of just under 5500 miles (8500 km). However immediately after take-off, the device intended to jettison the landing gear partially failed. The gear was finally ejected, but the two root struts remained attached to the Bellanca. Pangborn had to climb out on the wing supports barefoot at 14,000 feet in the air to remove them.

Due to fog, Pangborn and Herndon eventually landed at Fancher Field in East Wenatchee, Washington after 41 hours and 15 minutes of flying.

Quote of the Day

We don't know who we are until we see what we can do. Martha Grimes

A Bit of Light Relief

A woman went into a bank to withdraw some money.

For security purposes the cashier asked her if she could identify herself.

She opened her handbag and took out a small mirror, looked into it and said, "Yes, it's me all right."