

From Norwegian Air Shuttle ASA:

Norwegian to purchase 42 next-generation airplanes – strengthening its position in the Nordic and European markets

Norwegian Air Shuttle ASA has ordered 42 new Boeing 737-800 airplanes with Blended Winglets. The airplanes have a list price of USD 3.1 billion or just over NOK 18 billion. Parallel to this, Norwegian Air Shuttle ASA has ensured purchase rights for an additional 42 airplanes of the same model from Boeing. These cost-efficient airplanes with leading-edge technology are significantly more environment-friendly than the existing airfleet.

This is the largest order in Europe received by Boeing for the company's 737 series thus far in 2007. The new airplanes will supplement the 11 Boeing 737-800 airplanes Norwegian ordered from Boeing in May this year. The Boeing 737-800 model is a next-generation airplane, with a reduction in fuel consumption up to 33 per cent and reduction in NOx up to 43 per cent, compared with the oldest airplanes in Norwegian's current airplanes fleet. The 737-800 has 189 seats, while the current 737-300 has 148 seats.

"The new airplanes will strengthen Norwegian's competitive position in the Norwegian, Nordic and European aviation markets. Also, the airplanes are significantly more environment-friendly than the ones we use today. These airplanes will reduce Norwegian's CO² emissions and bring down fuel costs, while noise levels are considerably lower than for other airplanes," says Bjorn Kjos, CEO of Norwegian Air Shuttle ASA .

We have explored different ways of financing, hereunder US ex-im financing of 85 per cent of the purchase price.

These purchases will open up new opportunities, enabling us to fly longer distances and thus consider new, interesting routes," says Bjorn Kjos, adding that the purchases will ensure greater flexibility when phasing out older airplanes and adapting to market trends.

The 42 airplanes will be delivered over a five-year period from 2009 through 2014, with around 10 airplanes each year. The company has entered into hedging agreements to cover a large part of the NOK/USD exposure in connection with the purchases.

Norwegian is one of Europe's leading low fare airline and started its operations 1 September 2002 with four domestic routes and six aircraft – Boeing 737-300. Norwegian was listed on the Oslo Stock Exchange December 2003.

Today Norwegian has 22 Boeing 737-300, eight MD80 (FlyNordic) and will have 11 new Boeing 737-800 from 2008 to 2010. The aircraft is mainly leased except for two Boeing 737-300 which are owned by Norwegian. The company offers a route network of 122 routes to 75 destinations from Norway, Poland and Sweden.

The company has 1,250 employees and the headquarters are located at Fornebu/Oslo. For further information, please visit our website: www.norwegian.no