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Norwegian to acquire three new Dreamliners

Norwegian has signed an agreement for the right to purchase three Boeing 787-8 Dreamliners. The company has previously entered into an agreement to lease two aircraft of the same type, bringing the total number of such aircraft on order up to five. The Dreamliner is an aircraft for the future, featuring unprecedented passenger comfort, low operating costs and reduced emissions.

Norwegian has entered into an agreement involving the right to purchase

three Boeing 787-8 Dreamliners, with two aircraft being delivered during the first half of 2013 and one aircraft in early 2015. Norwegian is negotiating for further aircraft of the type. All aircraft will be equipped with Rolls-Royce Trent 1000 engines.

“Getting hold of an additional three Dreamliners imply that we have secured sufficient capacity for the launch of the long-haul operation. We will operate a fleet of at least four of the most efficient and modern long-haul aircraft already by summer 2013,” said CEO Bjørn Kjos at Norwegian.

“The Dreamliner is the most cost efficient aircraft type of its size with considerably lower operating costs than competing aircraft types, making low-cost journeys to distant destinations a reality. A primary driver for the low costs is fuel efficiency, which also makes the Dreamliner the most environmentally friendly option. The emissions are as much as 20 % lower than comparable aircraft,” said Kjos.

As with the existing short-haul operation, Norwegian will offer low-fare, non-stop long-haul routes to avoid expensive and time consuming stopovers. The size of the Dreamliner is a perfect match for the Scandinavian market. Combined with longer range, higher speed and substantially lower operating costs, routes previously not feasible as a non-stop alternative from Scandinavia will be a reality with Norwegian’s Dreamliner operation.

In November 2010 Norwegian entered into a leasing agreement with ILFC for the delivery of two 787-8 Dreamliners during fall 2012/ winter 2013. After today’s contract signing Norwegian will have five Dreamliners in its fleet. Negotiations for further aircraft continue.

Contacts:

SVP, Corporate Communications, Anne-Sissel Skånvik, tel.+ 47 97 55 43 44

CFO Frode Foss, tel. + 47 91 63 16 45

Communications Manager, Åsa Larsson, tel. +46 735 22 22 42

Norwegian Air Shuttle ASA, commercially branded “Norwegian,” is a public low-cost airline noted on the Oslo Stock Exchange. The company is the second largest airline in Scandinavia, and has a route portfolio that stretches across Europe into North Africa and the Middle East. With competitive prices and customer friendly solutions and service, the company has experienced significant growth over the previous years. With more than 13 million passengers in 2010, Norwegian is the 3rd largest low-cost airline in Europe. Norwegian currently operates 57 aircraft on 238 routes to about 100 destinations and employs approximately 2 500 people.

Contacts



For journalists only

Press Contact
Norwegian Press Office
press@norwegian.com
+47 815 11 816



Marketing/sponsorship requests: marketing@norwegian.com

Press Contact
Marketing/sponsorship requests: marketing@norwegian.com