



Capital investment

For Ethiopian Airlines, Boeing's 777-200LR links two key cities with nonstop service

By Adam Morgan

The world has gotten a little smaller for passengers flying nonstop between Washington, D.C., and Ethiopia's capital city, Addis Ababa.

When Ethiopian Airlines took delivery of its first 777-200LR (Longer Range) from Boeing in November, it became the first airline in Africa to operate the longest-range commercial jet flying today.

The 777-200LR makes it possible for the airline to fly nonstop on one of its most popular routes—Washington, D.C., to Addis Ababa. Before receiving its new airplane, the airline flew that route but had to make a stop in Rome. The old flight took approximately 18 hours or more, including transfer and layover times. Nonstop takes only about 12 hours.

"We've been building our fleet with Boeing airplanes for 65 years, but I think this airplane is extra special for us," said Ato Tewolde Gebremariam, newly appointed CEO for Ethiopian Airlines. "The 777-200LR is able to do what no other twin-engine airplane can do—fly

from the capital of the United States to the capital of Ethiopia. This is a very popular route for us, and the 777-200LR does it more economically for our airline and more comfortably for our passengers."

Washington, D.C., has one of the highest populations of Ethiopians outside Ethiopia. In addition, Addis Ababa is considered the political capital of Africa. The headquarters of the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa are both in Addis Ababa, and it is home to the fourth-largest number of diplomatic missions in the world. That combination means business for the airline.

And there are other opportunities for Ethiopian Airlines and the 777-200LR.

"With this new long-haul capability, we can look at other direct routes previously unavailable to us, like Addis to Asia, that we can now fly nonstop because of the impressive range of this airplane," Ato Tewolde said.

Ethiopian Airlines is configuring its 777-200LRs to carry 321 passengers—

34 in business class and 287 in economy. Ethiopian Airlines has three 777-200LRs in service and will take delivery of its fourth this month, the month of the airline's 65th anniversary.

Owned by the Ethiopian government since its founding in 1945, the airline operates an all-Boeing fleet, including the 737, 757, 767, MD-11 Freighter and one 747 Freighter. The airline's order for 10 787 Dreamliners was the first in Africa.

"The 787 is worth the wait because of all the great new technology and benefits to our airline and passengers," Ato Tewolde said. "We continue our strong relationship with Boeing not because of our past but because we share a vision for the future. Boeing employees really are building the products of tomorrow, today." ■

adam.k.morgan@boeing.com

PHOTOS: (Above) Ethiopian Airlines CEO Ato Tewolde Gebremariam. **JOHN CROZIER/BOEING**
(Below) The airline took delivery of its first 777-200LR last year. **TIM STAKE/BOEING**

