Boeing in the Middle East

The Boeing Company's relationship with the Middle East goes back more than 65 years when, in 1945, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt presented a DC-3 Dakota to King Abdulaziz Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia. Today, the region is one of the world's fastest growing commercial airplane markets, and its countries' defense needs are rapidly expanding. Boeing values its relationships and partnerships in the region and is committed to building on those relationships for mutual benefit into the future.

Boeing Commercial Airplanes

The Middle East is an important commercial airplane market. Carefully planned economic development in many Arab countries, coupled with the steady expansion of far-reaching global airline networks, has led to the record growth of air travel.

Boeing has forecast that the Middle East will require 3,180 new airplanes, worth an estimated $730 billion, over a 20-year period from 2015 to 2034. Forty-four percent of these are expected to be single aisle, while 28 percent are expected to be medium widebody, 18 percent to be small widebody, and nine percent to be large widebody.

Arab airport authorities have encouraged this growth by developing airport capacity for the growing number of passengers. In addition, most Arab airlines are adapting to an increasingly global environment by restructuring programs, upgrading and expanding their fleets, and implementing new technology.

The high traffic growth rate is also attributable to the region's population growth, vibrant tourism, economic growth, absence of railway systems and liberalization of commercial aviation. Because of the central location of the Middle East, its airlines' route networks spread out to Europe, Asia, Africa, and North and South America.

Boeing supports the view that the Middle East is a natural conduit between East and West, and the company works closely with Arab countries that want to increase their status as crucial hubs for the world's passengers and cargo.

Boeing's airline customers in the region include Emirates, Etihad Airways, Qatar Airways, flydubai, ALAFCO, EgyptAir, Oman Air, Gulf Air, Dubai Aerospace Enterprise, Saudi Arabian Airlines and Royal Jordanian. The Middle East is home to more than 500 Boeing airplanes that represent every single type of jetliner the company has built from the 1960s to date. This includes 707, 717, 727, 737, 747, 757, 767, 777 and 787 Dreamliner airplanes.
Emirates, Qatar Airways and Etihad Airways were the Middle East launch customers for the 777X, which was launched during the 2013 Dubai Airshow. flydubai – with an all-Boeing fleet, also placed a landmark order for 75 737MAX aircraft in 2013, making it the largest customer for the 737 MAX in the region. Following an order of 30 787-10, which Etihad Airways placed at the 2013 Dubai Airshow, the airline’s backlog of 787’s reached a total of 71, making it the second largest airline 787 customer of the 787 in the world.

Boeing provides technical support for its customers in the Middle East through the Dubai-based Boeing Service Center. The center is one of the company’s eight spares distribution facilities worldwide and houses approximately $25 million worth of parts and an inventory of more than 26,000 items that are shipped around the region to service airline customers. In addition, a regional spares manager and six field service offices in the region provide aftersales support, and 15 Boeing field service representatives provide on-site support to Boeing Commercial Airplanes customers.

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