FIRST LOOK: KLM'S FIRST 787-9 DREAMLINER

News / Airlines, Manufacturer

First Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner for KLM Royal Dutch Airlines(KLM) today emerged from the final assembly line at Paine Field, Everett.

The Dutch carrier published a photo of its first 787-9 Dreamliner via its official Twitter account on Aug. 31, saying "Work in progress: our first Boeing 787-9!"

The 787-9, Registration PH-BHA, is still in the Boeing factory in Everett, Washington, with only tail being painted in KLM colors. In the coming days, the Dreamliner will have its roll-out, livery painting, final outfitting and testing. It is expected to be delivered and fly to Schiphol in mid-October.

Abu Dhabi and Bahrain will be the first KLM destinations to be served with the 787-9 from October 25, followed by Cairo in November. From December, KLM will operate the 787-9 to Quito, Guayaquil and Xiamen. The stretched Dreamliner will be finally deployed on Amsterdam-Chengdu on March 27, 2016.

The 787-9 will be configured with 294 seats in a three-class layout - 30 lie-flat seats in World Business class in rows of 1-8, 48 seats in Economy Comfort zone, arranged 3-3-3 from rows 10 through 16, and 216 Economy seats also stacked 3-3-3 from rows 17 through 44.

KLM currently has 21 787s on order, of which 15 will be of the 787-9 type and 6 of the larger 787-10 type. The first two of KLM's 787-9s will be delivered in 2015, with approximately eight or nine

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joining the fleet in 2016. The remaining aircraft of the current order are scheduled to be delivered in the years after that, with the first 787-10 joining the fleet in 2020.

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