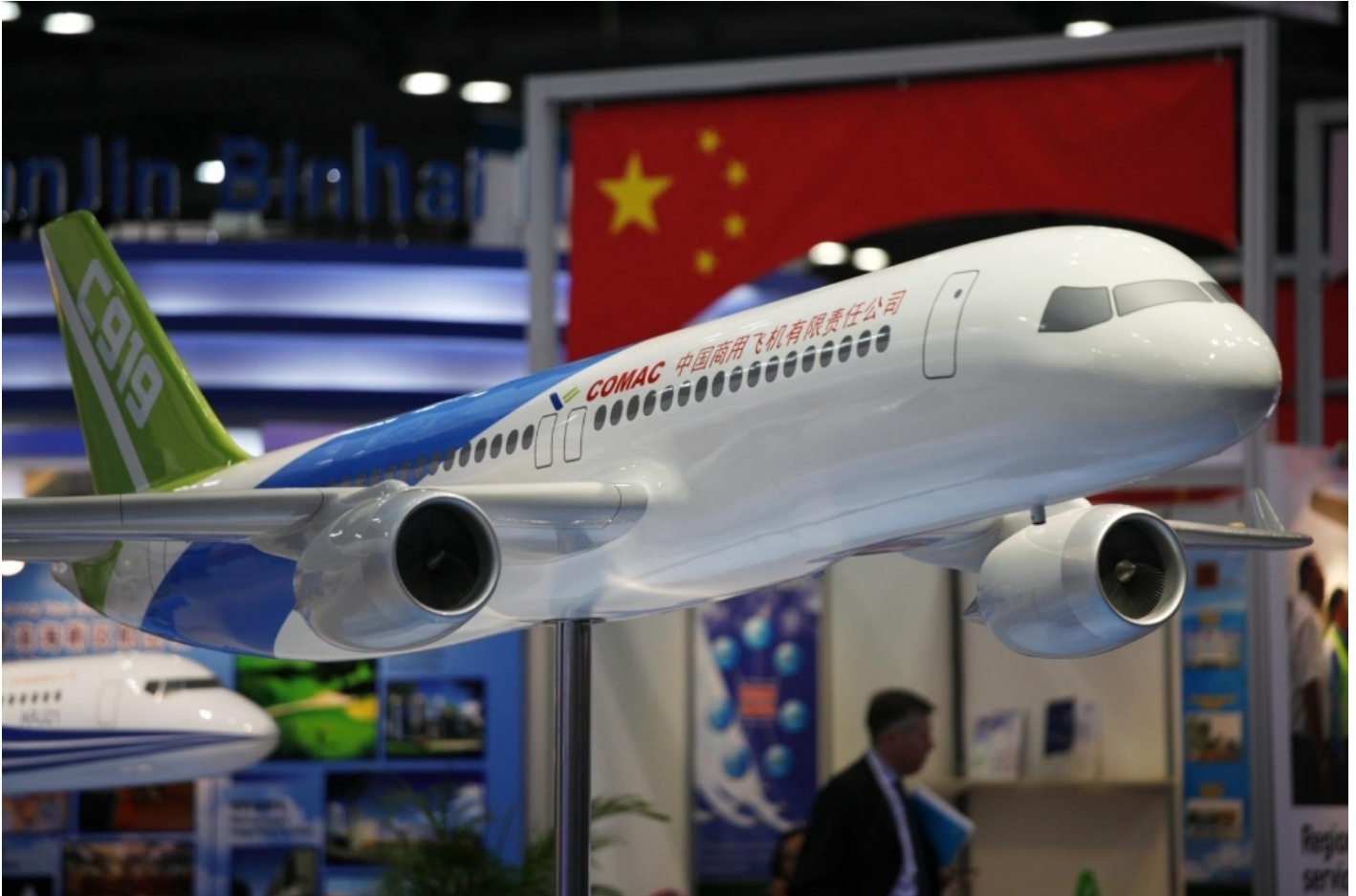




# CHINA'S FIRST LARGE HOMEMADE PASSENGER JET TO FLY IN 2017

News / Manufacturer



**Chinese state media say the country's first large homemade passenger jetliner will take to the air for its maiden flight in the first quarter of this year.**

**The ruling Communist Party newspaper People's Daily said Monday that Commercial Aircraft Corp. of China Ltd., or Comac, had nearly completed work on the 175-passenger C919.**

**The plane is to enter the market in 2019 in competition with the Airbus A320 and Boeing 737, along with the Russian Irkut MC-21.**

**Airbus and Boeing say the market for new aircraft will be worth more than \$5 trillion over the next 20 years. Industry experts say China faces a tough slog capturing a significant share of that market, even with government support.**

**Company officials couldn't immediately be reached.**

See original image

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The C919 is part of China's efforts to develop a homegrown aviation industry in one of the world's biggest and fastest-growing air travel markets. China currently relies heavily on foreign-made aircraft.

Last June, the ARJ21-700, China's first homemade regional jet, made its debut flight carrying 70 passengers. The jet is one of a series of initiatives launched by the party to transform China from the world's low-cost factory into a creator of profitable technology in aviation, clean energy and other fields.

The ARJ21, also made by Comac, is a rival to aircraft made by Bombardier Inc. of Canada and Brazil's Embraer SA.

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**SOURCE: AP**

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