



Ethiopian Airlines signs up for Thales In-flight entertainment systems on its new B787 Dreamliner jet aircraft

April 14, 2008 – Ethiopian Airlines and Thales today announced that they have signed a contract for the Thales TopSeries In-flight Entertainment system to be installed on the airline's future fleet of 10 Boeing 787 aircraft. The system is based on the proven Thales TopSeries platform and will include advanced technologies that allow for increased performance and capability.

At every seat, Ethiopian Airlines will offer wide-screen display sizes of 15.4" in business class and 9" in economy. Large 15.4" wall-mount monitor screens will also be part of the cabin environment. Passengers will navigate through on-demand entertainment using the new Thales passenger control unit, which has a stylish appearance and slim design. *"Our airline recognizes that the Thales IFE system is the best choice for the B787. Its proven capabilities were key to our decision to select Thales,"* said Mr. Tewolde G. Mariam, Chief Operating Officer of Ethiopian Airlines.

In addition to this system, Thales will supply media services and maintenance support to ensure that the in-flight entertainment system is effectively managed for the long-term. *"We are delighted to support Ethiopian Airlines with its B787 program and expect that the system will deliver an exciting combination of entertainment and information for their growing number of passengers,"* said Alan Pellegrini, Vice President and General Manager of Thales' In-flight Entertainment business.

About Ethiopian

Ethiopian Airlines, www.ethiopianairlines.com, one of the largest and fastest growing airlines in Africa made its maiden flight to Cairo in 1946. The airline currently serves 50 destinations around the globe, 30 of which are in Africa. The addition of services to Kuwait and Riyadh in June 2008 will bring the total number of the Airline's international destinations to 52. Ethiopian will be the first carrier to operate the Dreamliner-B787 in Africa, the Middle East and Europe. In 2006 and 2007 Ethiopian has earned three different awards respectively from the African Aviation Journal, the African Times/USA, and the Government of Ghana for its best performance in the commercial air transport industry.

About Thales

Thales is a leading international electronics and systems group, addressing defence, aerospace and security markets worldwide. Thales's leading-edge technology is supported by 22,000 R&D engineers who offer a capability unmatched in Europe to develop and deploy field-proven mission-critical information systems. To this end, the group's civil and military businesses develop in parallel and share a common base of technologies to serve a single objective: the security of people, property and nations. The group builds its growth on its unique multi-domestic strategy based on trusted partnerships with national customers and market players, while leveraging its global expertise to support local technology and industrial development. Thales employs 68,000 people in 50 countries with 2007 revenues of €12.3 billion.

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