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Oman Air Introduces Blended Winglet™ Equipped Boeing 737-800s

First Middle Eastern Airline to Adopt Aviation Partners Boeing Blended Winglet Technology Installs 3 Three Shipsets

Muscat-based Oman Air has invested in Performance Enhancing Blended Winglets to save fuel, reduce operating costs and significantly improve payload/range capabilities during hot summer months. First Three retrofit installations were completed at Malaysian Air Systems in Kuala Lumpur in October 2005.

“Oman Air has been interested in Blended Winglet Technology for some time and they quickly appreciated the unique benefits of our technology to their particular applications,” says Aviation Partners Boeing CEO Mike Marino. **“We’re very proud to have Oman Air as the first operator of Blended Winglets in the Middle East and look forward to an ongoing relationship as they transition the remainder of their Boeing 737 fleet to Performance Enhancing Blended Winglets.”**

With average annual utilization rates of 3900 hours, and stage lengths of 848 nm, Oman Air will save about 100,000 gallons (380,000 liters) of jet fuel per aircraft per year with Blended Winglet Technology. In addition, Oman Air will be able to depart Muscat 4400 pounds (2000 kilograms) heavier thanks to aerodynamic performance advantages of Aviation Partners Boeing’s Visible Technology.

“The Blended Winglet business case was particularly compelling for Oman Air,” says Aviation Partners Boeing Sales Director Christopher Stafford. **“High utilization and long stage lengths allow maximum economic benefit of our Performance Enhancing Technology. Blended Winglets will allow Oman Air to carry the maximum possible amount of passengers during hot summer months.”**

Oman Air, which began operations in 1993, provides scheduled services to destinations throughout the Middle East, to India and Blended Winglet Technology will help this highly regarded and fast growing carrier to expand to many new, and far a field, destinations.

“Oman Air is continuously striving to optimize costs and increase productivity, with an objective to enhance its competitive edge,” says Oman Air CEO, Ziad Al Haremi. **“With rising fuel prices, there is a strong focus on various measures to optimize this vital cost element. Installation of winglets will reduce the fuel consumption, and hence is a major step in this direction. Besides lowering our operating costs, Blended Winglet s technology is also expected to enhance range as well as payload capabilities of our aircraft. We are indeed proud to be the first operator of Blended Winglets in the Middle East.”**

Blended Winglets are also certified on the Boeing 737-300 and 757-200. Aviation Partners Boeing is currently seeking a launch customer to certify Blended Winglets for the 767-300ER. Nearly 800 Blended Winglet Systems are already installed and in service on Boeing aircraft with orders and options approaching 2000 additional shipsets.

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