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Airbus / EADS

- **A400M:** EADS confirms that first flight is postponed beyond the end of this year due to "the unavailability of the propulsion system"- the head of OCCAR says the plane will be delivered in 2010, a year later than planned.
- **China:** Airbus officially opens its first final assembly line outside of Europe in Tianjin. The first aircraft will be delivered to Sichuan Airlines in mid 2009. Production to reach four aircraft a month by 2011.
- **Orders:** Airbus says it has agreed to sell 280 additional aircraft to Chinese airlines. They will help Airbus tally about 850 total orders for 2008.
- **Production:** Airbus remains "on track" to raise A320 output from currently 34-36 a month to 40 a month by early 2010 and commercial aircraft production by almost a third in the next four years.
- **A380:** Qantas receives its first aircraft, while Singapore Airlines' A380 fleet reaches 6 aircraft. Airbus denies reports of a revision in the A380 delivery schedule.

Boeing

- **Machinists strike:** as the strike enters a 26th day, Boeings says it will have to "reassess production, deliveries and program schedules for the 787". Launch customer ANA announces a new delivery date in August 2009, 15 months later than originally planned.
- **787:** Boeing successfully completes the high-pressure test known as "high blow" on the 787 static test airframe, one of three static tests that must be cleared prior to first flight.
- **737:** Boeing does not rule-out re-engining the 737 in response to Airbus' flight test of a Pratt & Whitney's GTF geared turbofan demonstrator on an A320.
- **Biofuels:** Boeing teams up with 10 carriers (among which Air France, SAS, ANA, Continental) and Honeywell for an initiative aiming to accelerate the development and commercialisation of sustainable aviation fuels.

Orders/Deliveries

- **Orders:** first eight months of 2008: 754 for Airbus, 588 for Boeing
- **Deliveries:** first eight months of 2008: 315 for Airbus, 313 for Boeing

Other Manufacturers

- **Bombardier:** is re-evaluating its development and manufacturing strategy for the all-composite Learjet 85 business jet after terminating an agreement with Grob Aerospace, immersed in a financial crisis.
- **Safran:** inaugurates three new sites in the US: Sagem Avionics in Texas, Turbomeca in North Carolina and Messier-Bugatti in Kentucky. In total 11 new or expanded sites were opened this year.
- **Antonov:** is examining two new versions of the An-148: a longer An-148-200 for up to 99 passengers and a cargo An-148T which would be used as military transport aircraft.
- **AVIC I:** the merged company it is forming with AVIC II will be called "China Aviation Industry Corp. Group" and its official start will be delayed until October.
- **Sukhoi:** signs a memorandum with Korea's Trade-Investment Promotion Agency KOTRA to identify potential participants in production cooperation on the Sukhoi Superjet 100 Programme.

Airlines

- **IATA:** international passenger demand growth slowed to 1.3% in August, following disappointing growth of 1.9% in July. Passenger load factors fell to 79.2%. Passenger traffic grew by 5.4% in the first half of the year.
- **Alitalia:** a temporary operating license has been confirmed after investment group CAI revived its bailout offer. Its plan, including 3,000 job losses, was backed by the carrier's nine labour unions.
- **Thomas Cook:** withdraws from discussions with TUI Travel and Lufthansa about a merger of its charter airline Condor with TUIfly and Germanwings.
- **Delta/Northwest:** the plans submitted for interim operations and a Single Operating Certificate transition have been accepted by the FAA.

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