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Airbus / EADS

- **EADS:** if US Air Force selects Northrop Grumman over Boeing for next-generation tankers, first US final assembly line to be established in Mobile for tankers and commercial A330 freighters
- **A380:** second A380 delivered to Singapore Airlines 10 days earlier than planned – in total 13 A380s to be delivered in 2008
- **A400M:** EADS dismisses fresh reports on a new 6-12 month delay – first flight still scheduled for “summer” – German defence ministry considers fines
- **Production rates:** A320 rate to be increased from 34 to 40/month by next year – A380 rate to triple to 45/year by end of 2010
- **EADS:** Russian bank VTB sells its 5% stake to Russia’s Bank of Development - United Aircraft Corporation to be the final buyer

Boeing

- **787:** press reports on additional delays (delayed powering up to push first flight to April or May) not confirmed by Boeing
- **787** computer systems: FAA requires assurances that passengers won’t be able to tamper with the jet’s electronic systems - Boeing says concerns have been addressed
- **737:** 2007 was the strongest sales year in the aircraft’s history, with 846 net orders
- **777:** Boeing ready to begin full production of the new 777 Freighter - 90% of design work completed (82 orders so far, launch customer Air France in end 2008)
- **Deliveries:** to be increased from 441 last year to 480-490 in 2008, 500-525 in 2009
- Boeing to start flight tests with **biofuels** on a 747 as early as next month in cooperation with Virgin Atlantic and GE – tests also with Air New Zealand towards end of 2008

Competition - Orders

- **2007 orders:** Boeing announces a net total of 1,413 – Airbus expected to be close (to be announced this week)
- **Boeing and Airbus** together have taken 6,400 orders over the past 3 years, equalling the previous 8 years combined

Other manufacturers

- **China:** roll-out of 90-seat ARJ21-700, first domestically developed regional jet (first test flight in spring) - AVIC I and AVIC I to be restructured in a company building large commercial jets
- **Sukhoi:** Superjet 100 flight testing could be delayed until middle of the year (initially scheduled for end 2007) - delayed testing of engines and avionics installation the reported causes
- **Embraer:** largest annual delivery figure in its history with 169 jets in 2007 – 195-200 aircraft expected in 2008

Aviation

- **ICAO:** international passenger traffic grew at 7.3% in 2007 (7.6% in 2006) - European traffic up by 6.4%, Asia/Pacific 6.6%, North America 5.5%, Middle East 19%
- **Eurocontrol:** European flights rose to 10 million in 2007 (+5.3%, all time high) – growth driven by low cost (+25%) and business aviation (+10%); predicted growth in 2008: +4.2%

Airline market

- **IATA:** industry returned to profit in 2007 for first time in 6 years (net earnings of \$5.6 billion); 2008 forecast down from \$9.6 to \$5 billion (higher oil prices)
- **Alitalia:** holds exclusive talks with preferred strategic partner Air France-KLM
- **British Airways:** to launch transatlantic subsidiary, OpenSkies, in June - daily flights from New York to Brussels and Paris
- **Lufthansa:** after talks with Alitalia, Iberia, LH acquires a 19% stake in US low-cost JetBlue Airways – “possible” future expansion to include accessing JetBlue’s US network
- Several airlines face **EC antitrust charges** in the provision of airfreight services (including BA, Air France KLM, SAS, Air Canada, Singapore Airlines)

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