

AIRLINES & AIRPORTS



The Five Longest Direct Flights In The World

Airplane seats are going to keep shrinking and the thought of cramming in smaller seats over the course of more than a few hours can put off most travelers. Would Australia's Qantas's new route from Perth to London a game changer? The 14,498 km flight will take roughly 17 hours and is expected to begin operating in March 2018, according to a press release by Qantas.

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Lufthansa Strikes Affect Earnings By Approximately EUR



Qantas to Launch Perth-London 787 17-Hour Nonstop Service

100 Million

The Lufthansa Group transported around 7.6 million passengers in November which corresponds to an increase of 5.9 percent compared to the previous year.

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Qantas announced it will launch Perth-London Heathrow non-stop service in March 2018 using the Boeing 787-9 for the 9,000 mile, 17 hour flight.

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PILOTS' TRAINING



Close to 100 % State Funding of Commercial Pilot Education in Norway from 2017

The Norwegian parliament has decided that Norwegian students for commercial pilot education now will get close to 100 % funding from the Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund. This is a very beneficial funding with no requirement for securing of the loan, no interest during education and a moderate pay back scheme.

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REGULATIONS & SAFETY



American Airlines Fined \$1.6



Bombardier CS300 Awarded

Million for Violating Tarmac Delay Rule

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) fined American Airlines \$1.6 million for violating the Department's rule prohibiting long tarmac delays.

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EASA Puts Forward New Rules for Air Operations

EASA published a proposal to the European Commission on new operational rules to better support pilot mental fitness. EASA's proposal is part of its Action Plan.

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Type Validation by the FAA

Bombardier Commercial Aircraft announced that its CS300 airliner has been awarded its Type Validation by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

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Delta Chief 'Encouraged' by New Trump Administration

Delta Air Lines chief executive Ed Bastian is "encouraged" by the US president-elect Donald Trump's platform to enforce international trade agreements.

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MILITARY & DEFENCE



Boeing Begins Digital Flight Deck Upgrades to NATO Fleet

Boeing delivered to NATO the first of fourteen E-3A Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft with cockpit upgrades that improve mission-readiness and decrease customer costs.



Airbus Books \$1.6 Billion in Commercial Aircraft Orders in November

Airbus reported firm orders for 14 commercial aircraft in November, valued at \$1.6 billion at list prices, from two airlines and one undisclosed customer.

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Trump Promises Changes to 'Out of Control' F-35 Program

After campaigning to reduce wasteful government spending, US President-elect Donald Trump announced that he is poised to modify the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program.

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First Two F-35s Delivered to Israel

The first two Lockheed Martin F-35s for the Israeli air force landed at Nevatim air force base on 12 December, delivered on schedule despite temporary delays caused by the weather.

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ACCIDENTS & INVESTIGATIONS



US Grounds Osprey Fleet in Japan After Aircraft Crashes Off Okinawa

The US military has grounded its fleet of Osprey aircraft in Japan after one crash-landed in the sea near Okinawa, in an incident that will fuel further local anger over the US deployment on the island.

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UPDATED: Russian Military Plane IL-18 Crash-Landed in Yakutia

The Russian Defense Ministry has said that all passengers and crew members survived the crash-landing of the IL-18 plane, and 16 people were injured, as cited by Interfax news agency.

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MANUFACTURERS



Boeing Plans Additional 777 Production Rate Cut In 2017

Boeing has informed employees that the 777 production rate will be reduced from seven per month to five per month in August 2017, meaning the program's production rate will be cut twice in 2017.

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Gulfstream G600 Takes Flight Ahead of Schedule

Gulfstream Aerospace Corp. announced the Gulfstream G600 has completed its first flight, officially kicking off the aircraft's flight-test program. Two additional G600 test aircraft have been inducted into the flight-test center.

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GENERAL AVIATION



Half of Airline Pilots Report Fatigue Which Could Jeopardise Passenger Safety

Half of airline pilots have reported that fatigue is not taken seriously by airlines, in the first large-scale survey of pilots' perceptions of safety within the European aviation industry.

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PIA Chairman Resigns in Wake of Fatal Crash

Just under a week after Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight PH661 crashed on its approach to Islamabad, killing all 48 passengers and crew, Azam Saigol, PIA's Chairman, has resigned.

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MRO



Lufthansa Technik Closing Aircraft Overhaul in Hamburg

Lufthansa Technik is to close its Hamburg overhaul operations for commercial aircraft in the course of 2017. Discussions with the wage accord partner, ver.di, ended without agreement.

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Safran Signs Contract to Support European NH90 Engines

Safran Helicopter Engines has signed a 10-year contract with NATO Helicopter Management Agency), to support RTM322-powered NH90 helicopters operated by the French Army Light Aviation and French Navy.

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