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IFALPA congratulates Boeing on the first flight of the 747-8F

Chertsey 9 February: The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA) is delighted to offer its congratulations to Boeing on a successful first flight of the 747-8F which took place yesterday just one day short of the 41st anniversary of the first flight of the 747 in 1969.

Commenting on the flight IFALPA President Capt. Carlos Limon said "Quite simply, the 747 is an icon of our age. It is a testament to the original design that after 40 years of service it has been possible take that design concept and using current technologies and materials create and aircraft that that flies further, carrying a payload 30 tonnes greater and at lower cost when compared with first freighter version."

Yesterday's flight was of course a landmark for Boeing and another milestone in 747's long history but it is one that is a beginning rather than an end. Our colleagues in the flight test department in Seattle have got a very busy time ahead of them as they work towards the certification of not only this aircraft but also the 787".

The Federation's pilot volunteers have been involved in the design and development of the 747-8 at an early stage offering opinion from the pilot perspective and so we will be following the progress of the test programme with keen interest. "These links will be strengthened as IFALPA experts from the Aircraft Design & Operation Committee work with Boeing colleagues on IFALPA's Future Flight Deck project which sets out to define the shape and style of the cockpits of the next generation of airliners." explained Capt. Limon.

Notes to Editors

The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations represents in excess of 100,000 pilots in more than 100 countries world-wide. The mission of IFALPA is to be the global voice of airline pilots, promoting the highest level of aviation safety and security world-wide and providing services, support and representation to all of its Member Associations. See the Federation website www.ifalpa.org

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