FLEET MODERNISATION BEGINS FOR IAG CARGO WITH DELIVERY OF BOEING 787 AND AIRBUS A380 AIRCRAFT

IAG Cargo today marked the beginning of a major fleet modernisation programme as British Airways welcomes two next generation aircraft models to its fleet: the Boeing 787 and Airbus A380.

The aircrafts' arrival marks the start of a 10 year fleet renewal plan that will see the delivery of 78 widebody aircraft to the group. The A380 touched down at 10:29 BST today at London Heathrow, where it joined the two B787s British Airways took delivery of in June.

Replacing the B767 and B747 models, the new B787 aircraft offer increased cargo capacity and is 25 per cent more fuel efficient than airplanes of its size in use today. This will allow IAG Cargo to increase its capacity while controlling costs and better managing the environmental impact of its operations. On all existing B787 orders, IAG Cargo has specified air conditioning capabilities for the hold, which will prove beneficial to customers wishing to transport temperature-sensitive cargo, such as perishables or pharmaceuticals.

IAG Cargo has optimised its A380 for belly-hold cargo by purchasing two additional ULD positions in the hold. IAG will also be the first carrier in the world to receive an A380 with an improved maximum take-off weight, 12 tonnes heavier than other A380's currently flying, allowing it to carry more cargo. As the aircraft is enabled with air conditioning in the forward hold and heating and ventilation in the rear hold it will also be well-suited for the shipment of temperature-sensitive goods, where IAG Cargo will now be able to set and maintain hold temperature to within 1°C accuracy.

Over the next ten years, IAG Cargo will benefit from a completely overhauled and modernised fleet. This programme will see the delivery of 24 Boeing 787s, 12 A380s and 6 Boeing 777-300ER. Additionally, IAG has ordered 18 A350-1000s and plans to convert options on a further 18 787s, both subject to shareholder approval.

Steve Gunning, Managing Director at IAG Cargo, commented: "This is an incredibly important and exciting day for IAG Cargo and our customers. These new aircraft will play a crucial role in helping us to meet our commitment to provide long-term capacity solutions for businesses across the world. We are confident that the B787 and A380, along with the aircraft we will introduce over the next few years, give us the modern and scalable airside capabilities we need to provide the highest levels of customer service."

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