

Piedmont launch customer for Boeing 737-400

Boeing's 737, the mainstay of our fleet since 1968, has been chosen as the aircraft that will carry us into the future.

Bill Howard, our president and chief executive officer, announced at a press conference June 4 that Piedmont has provided Boeing with the first production order for a new generation of Boeing 737 aircraft—the 737-400. The 156-seat twinjet will be the most modern passenger plane in the world when it rolls off the production line in 1988.

The order is the sixth-largest in Boeing's commercial-aircraft sales history.

Howard, along with Frank A. Shrontz, president and chief executive officer of The Boeing Com-

pany of Seattle, announced the launch order for 25 of the new aircraft at a press conference at the Marriott Hotel at the Greensboro/High Point/Winston-Salem Regional Airport.

Delivery of the 25 737-400s to Piedmont is scheduled to begin in September 1988 and be completed by December 1989. Piedmont also placed options to buy 30 additional 737-400s, to

be delivered in 1990 and 1991 if those options are exercised.

Boeing placed the total value of the 55 aircraft at about \$1.9 billion, including spare parts.

"The 737-400 will be comfortable and physically attractive to our passengers," Howard said. "Its

highly efficient engines will also require less fuel than the earlier 737-200 model, so it will be profitable to operate on a variety of stage lengths. This, in combination with its larger size, will help hold down the cost of air transportation, which continues to be one of America's best consumer values."

The 737-400 will come

in two cabin configurations: 156-seat in all-coach, and 146-seat in

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Charlotte gets \$27 million in improvements, growth

We're growing again in Charlotte!

For the second time since the new terminal opened at Charlotte/Douglas International Airport in 1982, we're expanding our concourse to better handle operations at our largest hub.

The announcement was made by Bill Howard, president and chief executive officer, and Charlotte Mayor Harvey Gantt, at a news conference held at the airport on June 9. The \$27 million project, designed to enhance our passenger facilities and relieve peak period congestion in the aircraft ramp

area, is expected to be completed by late summer of 1987.

The new concourse section will also give Piedmont seven new gates with loading bridges, as well as 12 gates for our commuter aircraft. In addition, we will gain two more gates on Concourse C by the end of the year when Delta and United move to Concourse A, now under construction. By next summer, Concourse C will be all Piedmont with 27 gates.

"Charlotte has grown rapidly as a hub airport," Howard said. "Public response to the services Pied-

mont has provided here has been so strong that just nine other airline hub operations at airports across the United States handle more passengers than Piedmont. It has been clear to Piedmont and to the Charlotte city officials that the more than 400,000 passengers handled by Piedmont monthly at Douglas Airport need more amenities and facilities. This \$27 million program will address precisely those needs."

The City of Charlotte will fund the project through revenue bonds. Improvements will include:

- Ramp space around the Piedmont concourse and taxiways in the area will be increased by 35 to 40 percent. We will also construct our own control tower to manage our aircraft, Piedmont Commuter flights and our ground equipment in the terminal area. The 85-foot tower will be located in the center of our concourse and will be operated by Piedmont people.
- Our holdrooms will be more spacious. The program will add 12,000

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Charlotte Mayor Harvey Gantt (left) and Bill Howard, Piedmont president and chief executive officer, announced at a joint press conference June 9 that the Charlotte/Douglas International Airport will undergo a \$27 million expansion.

The Federal Aviation Administration predicts that Charlotte will jump to the nation's eighth or ninth busiest airport by 1996, up from 23rd in 1984. We now generate about 72 percent of the airport's passenger loads.