

# 3rd order of 2026: Delta Air Lines exercises options for 34 more Airbus A321neo aircraft

Delta ordered 30 Boeing 787 planes at the start of this year and then topped up its backlog for A330neos and A350s later in January.



Dillon Shah · March 1, 2026

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Delta Air Lines announced on Friday that it would be exercising options for 34 more Airbus A321neo aircraft as it accelerates its narrowbody fleet renewal program. It says that the latest move reinforces the aircraft type's role as "a pillar of Delta's next generation narrowbody fleet."

The aircraft from this order will be delivered from 2029. This marks the carrier's third order in 2026, following additional commitments for Boeing 787, Airbus A330-900 and A350-900 aircraft.

## Delta Air Lines reinforces A321neo fleet with more orders

In December 2017, Delta ordered 100 Airbus A321neo aircraft with options for a further 100. It then firmed an additional 25 in April of 2021 and a further 30 in August 2021. This left firm orders at 155 planes and options for 70, calculates [AirInsight](#). With Friday's agreement, only 36 options remain.



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In a statement, Delta's Vice President of Fleet, Kristen Bojko said: "The A321neo has proven to be an exceptional aircraft for Delta, delivering industry-leading efficiency while offering the premium experience our customers value." The carrier received its first A321neo in 2022, and now has 92 planes in service. A total of 97 planes are still to be delivered, including the exercise of options announced this week.

"By exercising these options, we're continuing to invest in a fleet that improves our cost structure, supports our sustainability goals and gives us powerful flexibility to serve our customers well into the next decade."

The aircraft will be powered by Pratt & Whitney GTF engines.

## Delta Air Lines' A321neos focus on premium passengers

Aside from the 20-30% fuel efficiency savings that the aircraft type offers over current generation planes, Delta argues that the A321neos are a “critical element” of its premium strategy. All three of the US’ major carriers – as well as many airlines around the world – are strengthening their focus on higher-paying premium passengers.



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The company says that the planes will have more Delta First and Delta Comfort seats than “any other narrowbody aircraft” in its current fleet, allowing it to meet demand in domestic and short-haul international markets.

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Its highest density configuration of the A321neo has 164 seats. This comprises 44 seats in Delta First, 54 in Delta Comfort and just 66 seats in Delta’s Main cabin. Premium seating therefore represents the overall majority of the cabin, or 60% of the plane.

The airline says the A321neo has the “highest cabin satisfaction scores among Delta’s narrowbody fleet.”

## Delta’s third aircraft order this year

Though March has just begun, Delta has already announced three aircraft agreements this year. In January, it revealed that it would be adding the Boeing 787 Dreamliner to its fleet for the first time. It ordered 30 planes with a further 30 options, destined for use on high-demand routes on its transatlantic and South American networks. It has not yet revealed the seat configuration plans for the plane, though it has shared that deliveries will begin in 2031.



Photo: Delta Air Lines

At the end of January, Delta bolstered its orderbook for Airbus-manufactured widebody planes as well. It signed for an additional 31 planes, including 16 A330-900neos and 15 A350-900s. Deliveries for the new order will begin in 2029, though it already has both types in commercial service.

The A330neo fleet will reach 55 planes, and the A350 fleet will reach 79.

*Featured image: Delta Air Lines*

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