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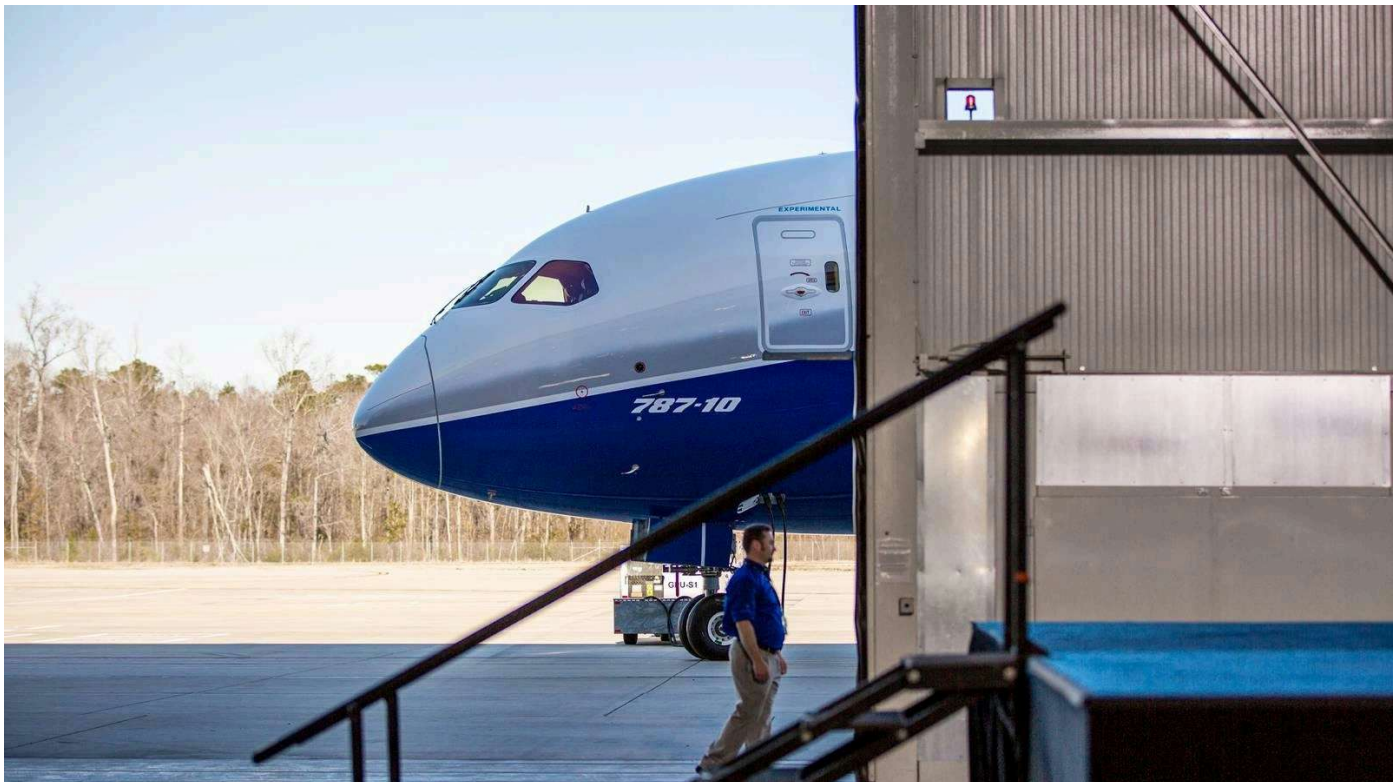
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One of the Largest Widebody Aircraft Is the Cheapest to Fly in the U.S.

August 13, 2026

By ePlane AI



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One of the Largest Widebody Aircraft Is the Cheapest to Fly in the U.S.

Operational Cost Efficiency of the Boeing 787-10 Dreamliner

Recent quarterly financial disclosures from major U.S. airlines have highlighted a notable operational insight: the Boeing 787-10 Dreamliner, one of the largest twin-engine widebody jets, currently stands as the most cost-effective widebody aircraft in domestic and transatlantic service. While international airshow order announcements often capture public attention, the true economics of operating these aircraft emerge from detailed data submitted to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) through Form 41 balance sheets.

Despite its substantial 224-foot (68-meter) fuselage, the stretched 787-10 achieves lower direct operating costs per seat than many smaller twin-engine jets. Its high-density seating configurations enable airlines to maximize passenger capacity on high-demand routes without a corresponding increase in fuel consumption or maintenance expenses. According to aviation intelligence firm AirlInsight, the 787-10's direct operating cost stands at just \$19.54 per seat-hour, encompassing fuel, crew, maintenance, and insurance.

Comparative Cost Advantages and Design Efficiencies

This cost efficiency is particularly significant when compared to other widebody aircraft. The Airbus A330-300, for instance, incurs a direct operating cost of \$21.43 per seat-hour, representing a 9.7% premium over the 787-10. The Boeing 767-400ER is even less economical, with costs of \$22.91 per seat-hour, or 17.2% higher. While savings of \$1.89 to \$3.37 per seat-hour may appear modest on an individual flight, these margins accumulate rapidly. On a 10-hour transatlantic journey with 318 seats, operating a 787-10 instead of a 767-400ER can save an airline more than \$10,700 per departure. Over the course of 300 annual flights, this translates to over \$3.2 million in direct cost reductions per aircraft.

The 787-10's efficiency largely results from Boeing's strategy of stretching the Dreamliner airframe without redesigning its core wings or propulsion systems. Sharing 95% of its components with the smaller 787-9, the aircraft benefits from minimized production and maintenance costs while avoiding the weight penalties typically associated with entirely new widebody designs. This approach prioritizes optimizing fuel capacity for payload rather than maximizing range, making the 787-10 particularly well-suited for high-density, medium-to long-haul routes.

Market Dynamics and Industry Implications

This operational advantage emerges amid shifting dynamics in the widebody aircraft market. Airbus has been gaining momentum, securing new orders and delivering more widebody aircraft than Boeing in recent years. This trend is prompting airlines to reevaluate their fleet strategies, balancing the cost efficiencies of models like the 787-10 against the increasing appeal and availability of Airbus alternatives. In response, both manufacturers face pressure to innovate — Boeing by enhancing efficiency and reliability within its existing lineup, and both companies by investing in the development of next-generation aircraft to meet evolving airline requirements.

As airlines navigate these competitive pressures, the 787-10's cost leadership highlights the critical role of



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Akwa Ibom Expands Investment in Aviation Sector

Akwa Ibom Expands Investment in Aviation Sector Akwa Ibom State has reaffirmed its dedication to advancing its aviation industry, with particular emphasis on the full operationalization of the Aircraft Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facility at Victor Attah International Airport in Uyo, alongside the continued expansion of the Ibom Air fleet. Governor Umo Eno articulated this commitment during a series o...



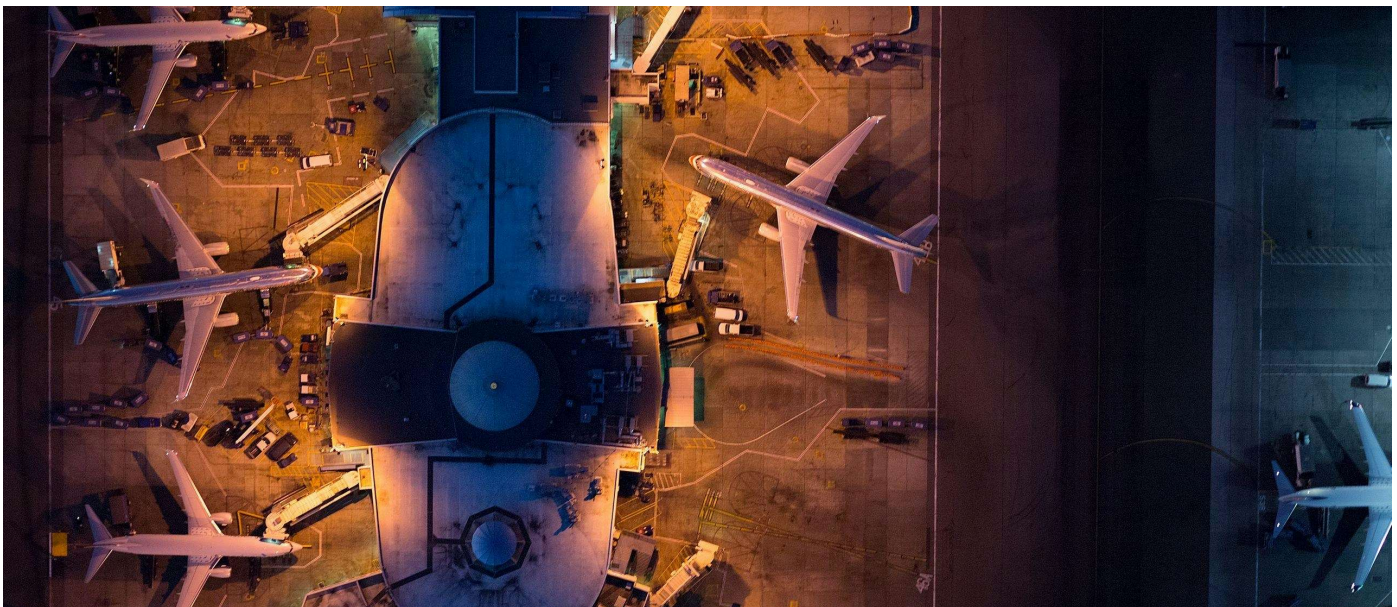
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Air One Names Gavrilin to Lead APAC Freighter Expansion

Air One Appoints Ilya Gavrilin to Lead Asia-Pacific Freighter Expansion Global aviation group Air One has appointed Ilya Gavrilin as Business Development Director for the Asia-Pacific region, entrusting him with the leadership of the company's scheduled and charter freighter expansion across this critical market. Based at Air One's newly established regional headquarters in Hong Kong, Gavrilin will be responsible for driving...



Airlines Resume Flights with Grounded Jets, but Engine Costs Persist

Airlines Resume Flights Amid Lingering Engine Cost Challenges Airlines worldwide are gradually returning previously grounded jets to service, yet the financial repercussions of an extended engine crisis continue to burden the industry. While operational hurdles related to aircraft availability are being addressed, the persistent costs associated with engine maintenance and repairs remain a significant challenge, driven by...



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Heart's X1 Aircraft Completes First Flight

Heart Aerospace's X1 Aircraft Completes Maiden Flight Heart Aerospace has marked a pivotal achievement with the successful inaugural flight of its X1 demonstrator, which the company claims to be the largest battery-electric aircraft to date. The flight took place on August 12 at Plattsburgh International Airport in New York, where Heart has established its dedicated flight-test facility for the X1 program. Details of the...



King Aerospace Appoints Sam Jackson as COO

King Aerospace Appoints Sam Jackson as Chief Operating Officer King Aerospace has announced the appointment of Sam Jackson as its new Chief Operating Officer, reinforcing the company's dedication to operational excellence across government, military, and private aviation sectors. In this capacity, Jackson will be responsible for overseeing operations at King Aerospace's various facilities, ensuring that daily activities...



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StandardAero Secures MRO Contract for Precision Air PW127M Engines

StandardAero Secures MRO Contract for Precision Air PW127M Engines Exclusive Multi-Year Agreement Strengthens Partnership StandardAero has entered into an exclusive, multi-year contract with Tanzania's Precision Air to provide maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) services for the Pratt & Whitney Canada PW127M engines that power the airline's ATR fleet. This agreement encompasses the PW127M turboprops...



Qatar Operates 283-Seat Jet on Short 80-Mile Flight

Qatar Operates 283-Seat Jet on Short 80-Mile Flight Qatar Airways recently deployed an Airbus A350-900, a widebody aircraft typically reserved for long-haul international routes, on an unusually short flight between Doha and Bahrain. On August 12 and 13, 2026, the airline operated the 283-seat jet over a distance of just 80 nautical miles (approximately 148 kilometers), setting a new record for the world's shortest bookable A350...



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Pratt & Whitney Shifts Focus from Widebody to Narrowbody Engines

Pratt & Whitney Shifts Focus from Widebody to Narrowbody Engines For decades, Pratt & Whitney was a key player among the three dominant manufacturers of large commercial aircraft engines. Its PW4000 family powered hundreds of widebody aircraft, including early models of the Boeing 777, Airbus A330, Boeing 767, and Boeing 747, establishing a strong presence at airports worldwide. However, the competitive landscape...



Airbus Shares Stabilize Amid SpainSat NG-III Contract and Defense Deliveries

Airbus Shares Stabilize Amid SpainSat NG-III Contract and Defense Deliveries Airbus shares held steady in mid-August 2026, buoyed by significant new contracts in the defense and space sectors that reinforce the company's pivotal role within Europe's aerospace and security landscape. Central to this positive momentum is Airbus Defence and Space's appointment as the prime contractor for the SpainSat NG-III secure...

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Airbus Reports Pilots Struggled to Regain Control After A320XLR Hydraulic Failure

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Initial findings: Airbus has released an initial assessment concerning a critical incident involving an Air India A320XLR flight from Dhaka to Delhi on August 4. The report reveals that the flight crew experienced a brief but significant hydraulic failure, which led to a loss of control of the aircraft. The aircraft was forced to land in an emergency, and all passengers and crew were safely evacuated. Airbus is currently conducting a thorough investigation into the cause of the failure, and the airline is cooperating with the relevant authorities.

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