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# News Release

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## **Delegation from China Southern Airlines Visits Detroit**

*--Nonstop Beijing-Detroit Service Scheduled to Begin in March 2009*

The Chairman of China Southern Airlines recently led a delegation to Detroit to discuss the carrier's new service between the airline's Beijing hub and Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport, scheduled to begin in March 2009. China Southern will operate one daily flight between Beijing and Detroit using its new Boeing 787 aircraft.

"I'm very pleased that Detroit will be added to China Southern's network beginning in 2009," said China Southern Chairman Liu Shaoyong. "Detroit Metropolitan Airport is a world-class facility that will serve as an excellent gateway to North America for our customers."

According to an economic impact study commissioned by the Wayne County Airport Authority, China Southern's nonstop Beijing-Detroit service will generate over \$95 million in annual economic benefit to the region.

"China Southern's new service will certainly have a tremendous positive impact on our economy," said Wayne County Airport Authority CEO Lester Robinson. "The nonstop service between Detroit and Beijing will not only increase business activity but will create new opportunities for trade and exchange."

Beijing currently ranks as Detroit's second-largest market in China for passenger traffic behind Shanghai. Nonstop service between Detroit and Shanghai on Northwest Airlines will also begin in March 2009. Cargo is also expected to play an important role in the success of both flights.

In November, China Southern Airlines became the newest full member of the SkyTeam Alliance, for which Detroit serves as a major world hub. As such, China Southern will operate at the McNamara Terminal, allowing for easy connections for passengers that may be transferring to or from flights operated by other SkyTeam partners, including Northwest, Continental, Delta and Air France.