

# News Release

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## Detroit Metropolitan Airport is Ready to Welcome Boeing's 747-8 Intercontinental

**DETROIT (Sept. 27, 2011)**—Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA) has received notification from the **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)** that **Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW)** has been certified to handle the new **Boeing 747-8 Intercontinental** aircraft as well as its 747-8F freighter variant. The Modification of Standards (MOS) granted by FAA for DTW is a significant advancement in the Airport's ability to grow both international passenger and air cargo operations.

“The ability to welcome Boeing's newest and biggest commercial jetliner to our world-class facility at Detroit Metro Airport is big step forward for our airports as an economic engine,” said **WCAA CEO Turkia Awada Mullin**. “The Airport Authority will certainly leverage this capability as we aggressively pursue new cargo and passenger air service that extend our Airports' global reach.”

Boeing's new 747-8, expected to enter service later this year, will become the world's longest and among the largest commercial airliners in the sky--and the largest ever to be built in the United States. The 747-8 will carry up to 51 more passengers and 26% more air cargo than the Boeing 747-400, the most recent 747 variant, which entered service with Northwest Airlines in 1989 and has since gone on to become a frequent visitor to DTW.

By incorporating several design and technology advancements pioneered for its new 787 Dreamliner, the new 747-8 will be significantly quieter and more environmentally friendly than its -400 predecessor. Its wider wingspan and longer fuselage, however, move the new 747-8 into a new size category known as Aircraft Design Group VI, requiring airports to demonstrate they have adequate infrastructure to support the larger sized jet before operations there are permitted.

“Ensuring that our airports are capable of handling the latest, most efficient and most promising passenger and cargo aircraft is critical to our regional effort to build a world-leading Aerotropolis in Metro Detroit,” said **Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano**. “This capability adds to the existing infrastructure already in place that, when combined

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with our highly skilled workforce and impressive talent pool, makes Southeast Michigan ripe for development.”

WCAA has received letters of intent from two carriers indicating their plans to operate the 747-8 at DTW on a regular basis. **Lufthansa German Airlines**, the launch customer for Boeing’s 747-8 Intercontinental, signaled that it may introduce the new aircraft on its Detroit-Frankfurt route. Meanwhile, cargo airline **Atlas Air** notified WCAA that it intends to serve DTW with its fleet of 747-8F freighters. The FAA’s MOS for 747-8 operations at DTW will enable the new jumbo jet to safely and successfully serve both the North Terminal and cargo ramp areas.

### ***About Detroit Metropolitan Airport***

Having welcomed more than 32 million passengers in 2010, Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW) is Michigan’s busiest airport and one of the world’s largest air transportation hubs with more than 1,200 flights per day to and from more than 150 destinations on four continents. DTW is home to the world’s sixth-busiest airline hub--and the second-busiest for Delta--where the airline operates its primary U.S. transpacific gateway. DTW is also served by a total of 13 airlines, including four foreign-flag carriers, and handled nearly 357 thousand pounds of air cargo in 2010. With two new passenger terminals and six jet runways, DTW is among the most efficient and operationally-capable airports in North America. DTW is operated by Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA).

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