National carrier Vietnam Airlines has announced the arrival in Hanoi of the first of its new B787-9 Dreamliner aircraft. After touching down at the capital’s Noi Bai Airport at 1710 (local time) on 2 August aircraft VN-A861 was officially welcomed by Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Trong, Executive Vice President of Vietnam Airlines.

This aircraft will go straight into operation on domestic services between Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City from 4 August, before making its international debut on Vietnam Airlines’ nonstop routes to London in September – making it the first Asian airline to operate both Boeing and Airbus’ modern next-generation aircraft at the same time. The airline will also become the first to operate the new B787-9 Dreamliner nonstop between South East Asia and Europe, it is understood.

This is the first of a total of 19 Boeing 787s which will be delivered to Vietnam Airlines by 2019, as part of a major fleet upgrade programme which also includes 14 Airbus A350-900 XWBs. These new aircraft will replace the airline’s entire fleet of wide bodied aircraft while maintaining its cost-effectiveness on long-haul and intercontinental routes. Vietnam Airlines’ next Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner is due to be delivered on 10 August 2015.

The latest extension to Boeing’s 787 family, the B787-9 Dreamliner can fly farther, and with more passengers and more cargo, than the B787-8 – but with the same exceptional environmental performance: 20% less fuel consumption and 20% fewer emissions than the aircraft it will replace. The new aircraft will feature fully-flat beds in Business Class, with in-flight WiFi services also set to be introduced. According to a statement from the airline passengers in all three cabin classes will benefit from larger windows and stow bins, modern LED lighting, higher humidity and cleaner air, lower cabin pressure and a smoother, quieter ride.

Frequencies between Hanoi/Ho Chi Minh City and London Heathrow will rise from four to five or six flights each week following the deployment of the Dreamliners, before increasing to a daily service for Summer 2016.

About Vietnam Airlines
As the national flag carrier of Vietnam, headquartered in Hanoi, Vietnam Airlines operates 94 routes to 21 domestic and 29 international destinations with more than 360 flights daily.
Operating a young fleet, mainly comprising Boeing 777s, Airbus A330s and Airbus A321s, the airline is expanding its fleet with next-generation aircraft such as Boeing 787 Dreamliners and Airbus A350-900 XWBs.

An official member of the SkyTeam Alliance since 10 June 2010, Vietnam Airlines was also the first representative of the alliance in South East Asia.

Picture caption
*Seen here after Vietnam Airlines’ first new B787-9 Dreamliner, VN-A861, touched down at Noi Bai International Airport on 2 August: Mr Nguyen Ngoc Trong, Executive Vice President, Vietnam Airlines (second right), welcomed the pilots, Captain Dang Ngoc Co (second left) and Captain Tran Tuan Hung (left).*