

## Aviators IG Interesting News #10 – Relaunch of the world’s longest flight

**#AviatorsIGFunFact: Antonov An-225 Mriya has six turbofan engines.**

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The Airbus A350-900 Xtra Wide Body (XWB) Ultra Long Range (ULR) will set to succeed the current non-stop flight from Auckland Airport, Auckland, New Zealand to Hamad International Airport, Doha, Qatar using Boeing B777-200 Long Range (LR).

The re-launch of the world’s longest flight will resume its operation from Singapore Changi Airport, Singapore to Newark Liberty International Airport, New York, United States. The longest commercial flight will commence on 11 October 2018, with flights operating daily starting from 18 October 2018. The flight time takes more than 18 hours, covering 15,344 kilometres. Previously, the Airbus A340-500 was the aircraft used to operate the route.



*Figure 1: Singapore Airlines Airbus A340-500 operating from Singapore to Newark (SQ 21)*

Singapore Airlines orders 7 A350-900 XWB ULR , which will set as the launch customer of this unique aircraft variant. The aircraft has a modified fuel system to increase the fuel carrying capacity, an increase in Maximum Take-Off Weight (MTOW), plus aerodynamic improvements from the A350-900, which enables the service to the US West Coast.

Singapore Airlines will configure their A350-900 XWB ULR maximum seating capacity at 162, consisting 68 Business class passengers and 94 Premium Economy class passengers. The flexibility of the aircraft could allow Singapore Airlines to re-configure their A350-900 XWB ULR back to standard A350-900 configurations of 187 Economy class, 42 Premium Economy class and 42 Business class, should they require to.



Figure 2: A350 XWB ULR Infographics

A350-900 XWB ULR is positioned to succeed the Airbus A340-500/600 and to compete with the Boeing B787-10 and B777-200LR/300ER. On 23 April 2018, the 1<sup>st</sup> A350-900 XWB ULR (9V-SGE) has successfully completed its first flight from Toulouse-Blagnac Airport, France. As of current production status, the aircraft is performing a short flight-test campaign, before being delivered to Singapore Airlines in the second half of 2018. As of current date, Singapore Airlines has received 21 A350-900 XWB aircrafts.

Some of the A350-900 XWB aircrafts is being used to operate from Singapore to United States. Examples will be Singapore Airlines Flight 32 (SQ 32) and Singapore Airlines Flight 52 (SQ52). SQ 32 is a scheduled daily direct flight from Singapore Changi Airport to San Francisco International Airport, while SQ 52 operates five times weekly from Singapore Changi Airport to George Bush Intercontinental Airport, Houston, Texas, United States, with a stopover at Manchester Airport, Manchester, England.



*Figure 3: 1<sup>st</sup> Singapore Airlines A350 XWB ULR takes-off at Toulouse-Blagnac Airport.*

To further improve the aviation competition, Boeing has announced its plan to compete potential markets by introducing a new development series project from Boeing B777. The project currently named as Boeing B777X, which consist of Boeing B777-8 and B777-9. The Boeing B777X will used a twin General Electric GE9X engine, which was derived from General Electric GE90; the largest and most powerful turbofan engine. A total of 326 orders have been confirmed for Boeing B777X, with the scheduled deliveries of Boeing B777-9 starting from 2020.



*Figure 4: A row of Emirates Boeing B777-300/300ER at Dubai International Airport*

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Figure 2 [Airbus] (2018, April 23). Press Release on the infographic of Airbus A350 XWB ULR. Retrieved May 05, 2018 from [http://www.airbus.com/newsroom/press-releases/en/2018/04/ultra-long-range-a350-xwb-completes-first-flight-.html#media-list-document-document-all\\_ml\\_0-1](http://www.airbus.com/newsroom/press-releases/en/2018/04/ultra-long-range-a350-xwb-completes-first-flight-.html#media-list-document-document-all_ml_0-1)

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