THE WHEEL DEAL

The complexity of the engineering that goes into the development of a Boeing jetliner is captured in this photo, which shows the main landing gear of the new 747-8 Freighter during recent gear swing tests. GAIL HANUSA/BOEING

BOEING, FEDEX EXPRESS CELEBRATE CARRIER'S FIRST 777 FREIGHTER

FedEx Express recently took delivery of its first 777 Freighter. It was the ninth 777 Freighter delivered to customers and the first to enter service with a U.S.-based global freight carrier.

"The 777F is a game changer," said Michael L. Ducker, president, International, FedEx Express. "Its operational efficiencies and environmental benefits alone are impressive, but combine those advantages with the service improvements it delivers and FedEx Express will be able to take international shipping to another level. Our customers around the world will benefit from more point-to-point routes and the shorter flight times, increasing their competitiveness in the global marketplace."

In the FedEx Express operation, the 777 Freighter can fly 5,800 nautical miles (6,675 statute miles, or 10,740 kilometers), an increase of 2,100 nautical miles (2,410 statute miles, or 3,890 kilometers) over the airline's MD-11 Freighter fleet. Some 58 customers have ordered more than 1,100 777s, including 71 freighters.

BOEING DELIVERS QANTAS' 75TH 737

Last month Boeing and Qantas celebrated the airline's 75th 737 at a ceremony in Auckland, New Zealand. The Next-Generation 737-800 featured 8.2-feet-tall (2.5-meter-tall) Blended Winglets, which reduce fuel consumption, increasing range and payload. Qantas named the airplane in honor of Jean Batten, a New Zealand aviator who broke many flying records in the 1930s.

With more than 8,000 orders, the Boeing 737 is the world's most popular commercial jet transport.

TWO-SIDED PRINTING NOW THE NORM FOR BOEING NETWORKED U.S. PRINTERS

In a move that reflects the company's commitment to continually improve its environmental performance, Boeing in September made two-sided (duplex) printing the default setting on documents sent to company-owned, networked Lexmark printers in the United States.

The change affects all Windows-based PCs but excludes international and classified area printers and print jobs sent from mainframe and UNIX applications. It will save about 115 million sheets of paper and 9,660 trees annually and help the company move toward its goal of reducing paper consumption.

"By making two-sided printing the norm, we are taking another step to improve our company's business performance and reduce our environmental footprint," said Mary Armstrong, Boeing vice president of Environment, Health and Safety.