

Boeing 777, the crown jewel of the aerospace industry, to land in Naples.

AirEurope is the first airline in Italy to use the aeroplane of the future in its fleet.

Today, for the first time, a Boeing 777-200 IGW will be landing at Naples International Airport. AirEurope, with five daily round-trip flights between Naples and Malpensa in Milan, is the only airline in Italy whose fleet can boast this aeroplane of the future. Completely computerised, excellent autonomy and capable of flying Milan – Honolulu nonstop, the Boeing 777 is often referred to as “the super-plane”. Normally used for long distance flights especially intercontinental routes, it has the largest motors in the world and, owing both to its dimensions and its unsurpassed technical characteristics is considered a veritable “giant of the skies”.

AirEurope has two Boeing 777s in its fleet, the first of which was delivered last July 20th. The second, fresh from the factory, arrived at Malpensa at 10:00 a.m. yesterday Wednesday, 13 October, piloted by Captain Giuseppe Gentile, General Manager of AirEurope, directly from Seattle Washington (USA).

To introduce this “jewel” of airspace technology to the various Italian Airports and their passengers flying domestic flights, AirEurope has scheduled an inaugural flight to Naples. For just this one day, the Boeing 777 will be used for the Naples-Milan route instead of the traditional Airbus A320 and will be the first time an aircraft of this type has ever landed at Naples International Airport.

To date, the Boeing 777-200 IGW is the most modern aircraft ever designed and constructed. Increasingly autonomous backup systems, capable of correcting even the remote possibility of pilot error, are characteristic of what will be the highest standards of onboard technology for the next few years. This milestone event gives Naples a glimpse into the future of the aerospace industry.

With 3.5 million passengers in 1998 and a 39% increase in passenger traffic over the past three years, Naples International Airport is one of Europe’s most important airports in terms of growth and potential.

The introduction of AirEurope service has contributed to the dramatic increase in passenger traffic on the Naples - Milan route which recorded 812,500 passengers between January and the end of September 1999, an increase of 109,000 passengers over the same period in 1998.

BOEING 777 Technical Specifications

Following its inaugural flight between Naples and Milan, the Boeing 777 IGW (Increased Gross Weight) will be used, together with its twin, for long distance flights.

At a cost of US\$ 120 million, these super aircrafts are completely computerised, have a record nonstop range of 11,000 km and are equipped with rest areas for the crew who work in shifts on long-distance flights.

The Boeing 777 IGW is made primarily of titanium to reduce weight and is equipped with two of the largest and most powerful motors ever built whose diameters are comparable to Boeing

737 fuselages. The new generation "fly by wire" commands utilise electronic rather than mechanical impulses, via cable and optic fibre, to command the hydraulic parts which activate the rudder, fins and flaps.

The three onboard interactive computer systems serve as the mind of this aircraft which is practically capable of flying alone under pilot supervision. They are, in fact, programmed to correct imprecise manoeuvres in the event that corrective manual measures are not taken.

AirEurope has configured the B777 to carry 339 passengers, 297 in Economy Class and 42 in Business Class. The AirEurope fleet consists of two B777s, four Boeing 767-300ERs and six Airbus A320s.