

New Boeing 737-800 to arrive on February 1

AIR VANUATU'S BRAND NEW Boeing 737-800 will shortly be ready to commence its journey to Vanuatu, the airline has announced. The arrival ceremony is scheduled for February 1, 2016.

"This new aircraft will not only save the company millions of vatu every year, it will also offer a much improved passenger experience," Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Joseph Laloyer announced yesterday.

"The new WiFi entertainment system will allow passengers to watch hours of television content on their own personal electronic devices and with a roomier 'Sky Interior' and overhead lockers, the appearance of more space will add to passenger comfort."

Mr. Laloyer said the company restructure was also progressing well, with the airline expected to return to IOSA registration sooner than

expected.

"Since we announced the restructure we have already made headway to regaining our IOSA certification and have kept our codeshare partners informed of our progress."

Air Vanuatu concluded all meetings with their codeshare partners before Christmas and all airlines agreed to remain as code-share partners subject to a number of conditions which the airline is working on.

These conditions include returning to IOSA within a shorter period than previously advised.

"We see our restructure as an opportunity to get the right people in the right jobs to ensure the national carrier continues to provide a safe and efficient service.

"A one-aircraft operation such as ours will always face challenges in times of engineering requirements, as we have experienced in the

last year, however we will shortly be receiving our brand new Boeing 737-800 which will improve our international operations.

"We are continuing with our plans to lease a new ATR72-600 this year and upgrading our domestic fleet with another Twin Otter," he said.

"I would like to acknowledge our passengers and customers have experienced delays and cancellations in the last couple

of months on the domestic network – many of these, such as the foreign object debris damage to the ATR and weather-related delays were beyond our control – and we do apologise for any inconvenience.

"Without the support of our customers we would not have a national carrier so we do thank them for their understanding and commit to improving our service in 2016," Mr. Laloyer said.

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