

# 3,133 ... and counting

With employees and partners focused on efficiency, the Next-Generation 737 continues to set records

**L**ate last year, Boeing built its 3,133rd Next-Generation 737, surpassing the production of all previous 737 models combined. Boeing employees in Renton, Wash., needed just 12 years to reach this milestone; a focus on efficiency by employees and suppliers has cut final assembly time of the 737 by more than half—to 10 days. It took 32 years to produce the same number of earlier-model 737s.

Shortly after delivering the first Next-Generation 737 in 1997, Boeing employees and suppliers began the journey to continuously improve the airplane and to produce it more efficiently. As a result, Next-Generation 737s are lighter, consume less fuel and generate fewer emissions than their predecessors, and they are more economical to operate and maintain. Indeed, 737s delivered between September 2008 and September 2009 had so few technical issues in service their passengers left the airport gate on time 99.8 percent of the time.

Over the next few years, passengers will enjoy the new 737 Boeing Sky Interior and Boeing will incorporate changes that reduce fuel consumption and emissions by another 2 percent.



**PHOTO:** In December, Brazil's GOL Airlines took delivery of these two Next-Generation 737s, including the record-setting 3,133th model produced. GOL celebrated nine years of commercial service on Jan. 15. Its fleet has grown from six airplanes to 109, all of them Next-Generation 737s. **JIM ANDERSON/BOEING**

## The stuff of legends

How well do you know some of the best and brightest engineers who have worked for Boeing?

National Engineers Week, which takes place Feb. 14–20 in the United States, celebrates engineers and their accomplishments. For The Boeing Company, those accomplishments have been many, including helping make it possible to send astronauts to the moon and return them safely to Earth.

In honor of National Engineers Week, *Frontiers* presents this short quiz about some of the legendary engineers who have worked for Boeing and its heritage companies. Match the name on the left with the achievement on the right. Answers are below.

For more about engineering excellence at Boeing, see Page 49.

Engineer	Accomplishment
1. Lee Atwood	A. Was instrumental in the design Douglas airplanes such as the DC-1, DC-2 and DC-3
2. Herman Barkey	B. Brought the swept wing to Boeing
3. Ed Heinemann	C. Led the team that developed Syncom, the world's first geosynchronous satellite
4. Arthur Raymond	D. Designed the B-17 and had a hand in the design of every Boeing airplane up to the 767
5. Harold Rosen	E. Was chief designer of the P-51 Mustang
6. George Schairer	F. Was director of engineering for the 747 program
7. Ed Schmued	G. Was instrumental in designing the P-51 Mustang, the X-15 rocket plane and the Apollo Command Module
8. Joe Sutter	H. Was a pioneer member of the F-4 Phantom engineering team
9. Ed Wells	I. Provided major design and leadership on Project Mercury and Gemini
10. John Yardley	J. Led the design of famous Douglas tactical aircraft from the SBD Dauntless to the A-4 Skyhawk; awarded the Collier Trophy in 1953

Answers: 1-G, 2-H, 3-J, 4-A, 5-C, 6-B, 7-E, 8-F, 9-D, 10-I