
American Airlines takes delivery of its first A320 Family aircraft

By **Tanya Filippelli** on July, 31 2013 | Airline & Terminal News



American Airlines recently took delivery of its first A320 Family aircraft at a special ceremony at Airbus facilities in Hamburg, Germany. Teams from American Airlines, Airbus and CFM International celebrated the first of 260 Airbus single-aisles the airline has selected to fly it into the future. American's A319s will seat 128 passengers in a two-class configuration, and will be used initially on the airline's domestic route network, and then into Central America this fall. The aircraft are powered by two CFM56 engines.

In addition to the delivery being a notable first for American Airlines, this aircraft is the very first A319 to feature Sharklets - lightweight composite wingtip devices that offer up to 4 percent fuel burn savings, providing the flexibility of either adding 110 nautical miles range or increased payload capability of over 1100 pounds (up to 500 kilograms). The American A319 is also the 100th A320 Family aircraft produced with Sharklets. Sharklets are an option on all new-build A320 Family aircraft, and will be standard equipment on all members of the A320neo Family.

"Everything about the new A319 aircraft has been designed with the customer at the center," said Virasb Vahidi, American Airlines Chief Commercial Officer. "The introduction of the A319 is another important step in building a strong foundation for the new American. We're pleased to be partnering with Airbus."

"It's our great pleasure to welcome back American Airlines to the Airbus family," said John Leahy, Airbus Chief Commercial Officer - Customers. "With its introduction of the A320 Family, the airline is demonstrating its confidence in a single-aisle product that has proven to be a game-changer for airlines around the world. American is undertaking a major strategic evolution and we are pleased to watch the A320 Family becoming an integral part of the airline's future success."

The A320 Family is the world's best-selling and most modern single aisle aircraft Family. To date, over 9,600 aircraft have been ordered and over 5,600 delivered to more than 380 customers and operators worldwide. With proven reliability and extended servicing periods, the A320 Family has the lowest operating costs of any single-aisle aircraft.