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# Richmond-based airline gets on board with new luxury aircraft



London Air Services president Wynne Powell says his fleet's newest edition will couple proven technology with the latest engineering advancements.

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Richmond-based luxury airline London Air Services is the first in the world to purchase a state-of-the-art aircraft due for production in 2017.

The new Bombardier Global 7000 will bring the Vancouver International Airport company's total fleet of privately chartered aircraft to 14, and is expected to fly the company's celebrity and executive clientele on a variety of non-stop routes between Vancouver, New York, London, Beijing, Singapore and Dubai.

At a cost of \$65 million apiece, the new jet is said to boast big improvements over Bombardier's current executive-class private aircraft, including new high-powered General Electric engines and a newly designed wingspan capable of cruising well above the weather at 51,000 feet at near-Mach-1 speeds.

On board, London Air Services president Wynne Powell said his jet-setting clientele can expect all the comforts of a home office setting with a full galley kitchen, conference centre, entertainment area and bedroom.

While hesitant to drop the names of clients, he said London Air regularly flies top musicians and film stars around the world, adding the company's airport office features a vast celebrity wall of fame, including a photo of Powell with Al Pacino.

Despite having just put a down-payment on a \$65-million aircraft still years away from completion, Powell said that the risk of the plane not living up to expectations is minute.

"It's really an enhancement of their current planes," Powell said. "You're still getting the proven technology of their current aircraft with the engineering changes to get [better] fuel efficiency and they're adding 10 feet to the cabin which is great for long-haul flights."

According to Bombardier's website, the new Global 7000 will be able to fly 13,520 kilometres non-stop with as many as 10 passengers onboard.

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