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/FROM PR NEWSWIRE LOS ANGELES 213-626-5500/  
TO BUSINESS EDITOR:

DELTA AIR LINES BEGINS FIRST SCHEDULED MD-11 SERVICE

ORLANDO, Fla., Feb. 6 /PRNewswire/ -- Delta Air Lines today became the first air carrier to begin scheduled international service with the world's newest airliner, the McDonnell Douglas (NYSE: MD) MD-11.

On Feb. 5, Delta gave its domestic passengers an introduction to the new airplane on flights from Atlanta to Dallas/Ft. Worth continuing to Orlando and Los Angeles.

The new trijet is capable of carrying 400 or more passengers over intercontinental ranges nonstop. The first MD-11 charter flights began last December.

Delta will be linking Orlando with Los Angeles and Tokyo with scheduled service six days a week with the big trijet.

Last October, as part of its flight test requirements, an MD-11 in Delta's colors completed three flights of 7,000 or more miles (11,265 km) in three days under simulated airline conditions and payloads. Each leg of the trip was longer than any trijet flight currently scheduled anywhere in the world.

New orders for two MD-11s for delivery in 1993 are being announced in conjunction with the start of Delta's MD-11 service today. Delta now is planning to acquire up to 44 of the advanced aircraft.

Participating in the inaugural flight activities is Douglas Aircraft Co. President Robert H. Hood. He said, "Delta and McDonnell Douglas have pioneered many milestones in aviation since 1926, including the first DC-8, DC-9 and MD-88 service. We are proud that one of the world's great airlines has selected our MD-11 as its long-haul mainstay aircraft and to open this new and vital route across the Pacific."

2/6/91

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