

India's Vistara places \$3.1 bn order with Airbus, Boeing

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India's newest airline Vistara said on Wednesday it had ordered 19 jets from Boeing and Airbus for a combined \$3.1 billion as it prepares to launch international flights.

As the country enjoys a boom in [air travel](#) owing to its growing middle class, airlines are rapidly expanding their fleets to capture a slice of the market.

Vistara, a [joint venture](#) between Indian conglomerate Tata and Singapore Airlines, said it would buy six Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners and 13 planes from Airbus's fleet of A320neo and A321neo aircraft.

"These orders are a landmark step in Vistara's journey and demonstrate our deep-rooted commitment to contributing to the rise of the Indian aviation industry and to offering more choices to our customers," chief executive Leslie Thng said in a statement.

The company, which began operating in 2015, added that it had also agreed to hire another 37 Airbus A320neos from leasing companies.

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In April, Indian airline Jet Airways said it had entered an agreement to buy 75 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft in a deal that could be worth more than \$7 billion.

There has been a six-fold increase in passenger numbers in India over the past decade as customers take advantage of better connectivity and cheaper fares thanks to a host of low-cost airlines.

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