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**BA pilots vote in favour of cost saving package**



BA pilots have voted overwhelmingly in favour of a package which is expected to save the airline £26 million per year. The package, which was negotiated by BALPA last month and recommended to its members, will mean the pilots taking a 2.6 per cent pay cut and a 20 per cent reduction in flying time allowances. A productivity deal was also included in the package which involves an increase in annual duty hours, shorter turnaround times on short-hauls and reductions to crew arrangements on certain long haul routes. In return the pilots will be eligible to receive shares in BA from June 2011 worth a total of £13 million.

Jim McAuslan, BALPA’s General Secretary said: “This is an unaccustomed position for a union to be in but we have pressure tested the company's trading position and cost base and are satisfied that this step is necessary to help BA recover its position as one of the world's most successful airlines.... Our members have backed that judgment and are leading the way in contributing to the turn-round plan. The package of measures will be implemented as soon as BA demonstrates delivery of the cost saving targets across the whole company”.

**Southwest 737 makes emergency landing after “small sized hole” appears in fuselage**

A Southwest B737-300 with 131 people on board had to make an emergency landing yesterday evening after suffering a cabin depressurisation. The aircraft was 30 minutes into a scheduled flight from Nashville to Baltimore/Washington when it diverted to Yeager Airport, Charleston. According to a statement issued by the airline and “initial crew reports, the depressurization appears to be related to a small-sized hole located approximately mid-cabin, near the top of the aircraft”. Oxygen masks were deployed during the incident but no injuries have been reported. Southwest stressed that there “is no responsible way to speculate as to a cause at this point” but pointed out that “our Pilots and Flight Attendants did a great job getting the aircraft on the ground safely”.

## Sukhoi reports yearly loss

Sukhoi has reported a net loss for last year of \$114.713 million compared to the previous year's profit of \$3.622 million. The company's operational performance also suffered during the year with a loss of \$44.783 million, in 2007 it managed a profit of \$2.7 million.

Although Sukhoi achieved "a significant reduction of commercial expenditure" during 2008 and revenue increasing "9.5 times", cuts in government grants and the weakened value of the rouble against the euro and US dollar were major factors in the company's results.



## Republic one step closer to acquiring Frontier

A US judge has approved Republic's offer of \$108.75 million for Chapter 11 protected Frontier Airlines. However, should any higher offers be received by August 3 then Frontier can terminate its agreement with Republic and accept the better offer.

## Piece of Aviation History for July 14



**1938** - With a crew of four, Howard Hughes pilots a Lockheed 14-N Super Electra – named *New York World's Fair 1939* – on a round-the-world flight. On the way, he cuts Lindbergh's New York-to-Paris record in half, and finishes the entire journey in 3 days, 19 hours, 8 minutes more than halving the time that Wiley Post took to make the trip. As a result, Houston's William P Hobby Airport is renamed in his honour. (It is changed back three months later when protests are made about naming it after someone who was still alive.)

## Quote of the Day

Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Mother Teresa (1910 - 1997)

## A Bit of Light Relief

Dave is standing drinking at the bar when the man next to him whispers, 'do you want to buy any pirate DVD's?'

'No thanks, I hate Treasure Island.'