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## Boeing to set up first overseas factory in China

US aircraft giant Boeing will set up its first overseas factory in eastern China aiming to deliver 100 Boeing 737 planes a year, official media reported today.

Boeing and Chinese aviation manufacturer Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China Ltd (COMAC) will start to build a Boeing 737 completion centre in Zhoushan by the end of March, scheduled to make its first delivery in 2018, state-run *Xinhua* news agency reported.

This is Boeing's first overseas facility as part of its 737-production system, and designed to deliver 100 Boeing 737 planes a year. The plant is being set up amid forecast by Boeing that China will need 6,810 new aircraft in the next 20 years at an estimated cost of USD 1 trillion.

A report on Boeing's annual current market outlook released last September said China

is expected to become the world's first trillion-dollar aviation market within 20 years.

Airbus, the French plane manufacturer has already established its assembly line factory in 1994 in Tianjin city located close to Beijing.

Airbus had delivered 153 aircraft to Chinese operators in 2016, its seventh consecutive year of more than 100 deliveries, Airbus China said earlier this year.

In the joint-venture completion centre, Boeing's 737 aircraft will be installed with flight entertainment systems and seats.

The plant in Zhoushan, 287 km southeast of Shanghai, also provides services such as coating, repair and maintenance of Boeing aircraft.