

**SSJ-100 makes maiden flight**

Russian new-generation regional jet completed its first flight in Komsomolsk-on-Amur. Another 600 test take-offs are required to complete flight certification.

Russian aviation industry, facing a crisis at present, places great hopes on this aircraft. SSJ is expected to help the Russian aircraft industry become competitive worldwide. Definitive contracts for 75 to 81 SSJ units have been signed, and the company may receive more orders shortly.

The world's giant aircraft producers, Boeing and Airbus, repeatedly postponed deliveries of their airliners, the Sukhoi Civil Aircraft Company also announced a delay in supplies. The project was threatened because potential buyers might have withdrawn from the agreements, which was absolutely unacceptable under the crisis conditions. Now that the jet made its maiden flight, customers' confidence is likely to increase.

By Kirill Lebedev