



**Snohomish County**  
**County Executive's Office**

Tuesday, June 14, 2005

**Aaron Reardon**  
*County Executive*

M/S #407  
3000 Rockefeller Avenue  
Everett, WA 98201  
(425) 388-3460  
FAX (425) 388-3434

[county.executive@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:county.executive@co.snohomish.wa.us)  
[www.co.snohomish.wa.us](http://www.co.snohomish.wa.us)

## At the Paris Air Show, a very good day for Snohomish County and The Boeing Co.

--

*Governor Gregoire and Executive Reardon meet with 787 subcontractors;  
Boeing announces billions in sales, says Everett's 767 line likely to remain  
open, cites growing interest in bigger 747*

LE BOURGET, France – Snohomish County is the aerospace center of the world.

That's the message Washington State Governor Christine Gregoire and Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon are delivering in a series of high-level meetings with key subcontractors of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner, which will be built at the aerospace company's Everett manufacturing facility.

Governor Gregoire and Executive Reardon urged top officials of Rolls Royce Group PLC and Le Groupe SAFRAN SA to locate their operations at Paine Field, joining Boeing and other world-class suppliers who benefit from state-of-the-art training facilities, highly skilled employees and a good business climate.

"Paine Field is already an aerospace center of excellence," Executive Reardon said after the meetings. "But we can take nothing for granted. Our job here it to clearly state our case that Snohomish County and Washington State can meet the needs of Boeing 787 subcontractors looking for manufacturing sites."

Rolls Royce, a British company, will build engines for the 787; SAFRAN, Europe's third largest aerospace group, through its subsidiary Messier/Dowty, will build the main and nose landing gear structure for the Dreamliner.

Governor Gregoire and Executive Reardon, who were joined at the meetings by Washington State Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown, D-Spokane, got commitments from at least two subcontractors to visit Washington state, Snohomish County and Spokane over the next three months.

Trade mission delegates also met with several companies that already have operations in Washington state: Lynnwood-based Eldec, a subsidiary of Crane Aerospace and Electronics; Smiths, a British specialty engineering firm doing business in Yakima County; and, Zodiac, an aerospace manufacturing and technology firm with a subsidiary in Arlington.

“It was clear to me that the CEOs of these companies appreciated that these were personal visits by high-ranking state and local officials,” Executive Reardon said. “They are aware of the reputation of both Snohomish County and Washington state. These were very encouraging conversations.”

Executive Reardon said one aspect of the meetings that surprised him was the emphasis company CEOs put on the need for a top education and workforce development system. The County Executive credited the state Legislature for appropriating \$500,000 to study the need for a four-year university in Snohomish County, a polytechnic that might specialize in engineering and the sciences.

Meanwhile, Executive Reardon said he is encouraged by a string of positive Boeing announcements at the Paris Airshow that directly impacts its Everett manufacturing operations, including:

- Boeing Commercial Airplanes’ CEO Alan Mulally’s observation that the world’s airlines are showing renewed interest in the 767, meaning the company will not have to decide on closing the line this year;
- Mulally’s comment that there is growing interest from airlines in both the freighter and passenger versions of the 747 Advanced, which could replace the existing 747-400 as early as 2008;
- The announcement of a \$4.6 billion order for 20 777s by Qatar Airways; and,
- The announcement that Boeing is selling about \$4 billion worth of new airplanes to two companies that lease jets to airlines. GE Commercial Aviation Services, a unit of General Electric, said it has agreed to buy 20 737 aircraft from Boeing worth \$1.1 billion. International Lease Finance Corp. also announced it has placed a firm order for 20 737-700s/800s, six 777-300 Extended Range planes and two 777-200 Extended Range aircraft, together valued at nearly \$2.9 billion.

The 747, the 767 and the 777 are all built at Boeing's Everett manufacturing facility at Paine Field.

"This has been a very good day for Boeing at the Paris Air Show and, by extension, it has been a good day for Snohomish County," Executive Reardon said. "The buzz here in France is about the success of the 787. But news surrounding the 747, the 767 and the 777 lines is welcome, too. This is how we intend to maintain our aerospace center of excellence."

The Washington state trade delegation, including Governor Gregoire and Executive Reardon, met today with Mulally Tuesday to discuss additional ways the state and Snohomish County can convince subcontractors to locate here. The delegation will also meet with other suppliers.

Deborah Knutson, President of the Snohomish County Economic Development Council, is part of the state trade delegation. The delegation was late Tuesday to Frankfurt and Mainz, Germany, where it will meet with biomedical and biotech companies.

##

For more information, please contact:

Mark Funk  
Executive Management Analyst  
Snohomish County  
1 (425) 388-3623  
[mark.funk@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:mark.funk@co.snohomish.wa.us)

