



Aeronautical Engineers, Inc.

Media Release

For Immediate Release

AEI Announces Hainan Airlines Co., Ltd has Commenced its Second B737-800SF Freighter Conversion

Miami, Florida – Jan 26th, 2026 – Aeronautical Engineers, Inc. (AEI) is pleased to announce that Haikou-based Hainan Airlines Co., Ltd (Hainan) has commenced its second AEI B737-800SF freighter conversion as part of a three-freighter conversion order. The aircraft (MSN 32603) commenced modification on January 5th. Grand China Aviation Maintenance Co., Ltd (GCAM) is performing the modification touch labor and maintenance requirements. While not yet scheduled, the third aircraft is expected to commence modification immediately following the completion of MSN 32603.

Upon this release date, AEI has stated that Tianjin Air Cargo has since assumed the original Hainan agreement for the second conversion and will operate the aircraft to support the airlines growing cargo operations.

The AEI converted B737-800SF freighter offers a main deck payload of up to 52,700 lbs. (23,904 kg) and incorporates eleven full height 88" x 125" container positions, plus an additional position for an AEP/AEH. The conversion also incorporates new floor beams aft of the wing box, a large 86" x 137" Main Cargo Door with a single vent door system.

AEI's forward-thinking design allows for containers to be loaded into the aircraft a full 16.5" aft of the forward door jamb, ensuring ground operators have sufficient maneuvering room which minimizes potential door and aircraft strikes. Additionally, the AEI B737-800SF includes a flexible Ancra Cargo Loading System, a rigid 9g barrier, five supernumerary seats as standard, a galley, and full lavatory.

About AEI

Aeronautical Engineers, Inc. (AEI) is the global leader in the aircraft passenger-to-freighter conversion business and is the oldest conversion company in existence today. Since the company's founding in 1958, AEI has developed over 130 Supplemental Type Certificates (STCs) and has modified over 625 aircraft with the STCs. AEI helps its customers extend aircraft life and increase the overall value of aircraft assets by continuously focusing on dependable and flexible product offerings. AEI currently offers passenger-to-freighter conversions for the Boeing 737-800, 737-400, 737-300, MD-80 series, and CRJ200 aircraft. <https://www.aeronautical-engineers.com/>

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