GENERAL

an overview of commercial aircraft 2017 2018 dvb bank

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Introduction

When we think about the skies above us, it's easy to picture a sleek jet slicing through clouds or a cargo plane delivering goods across continents. Yet behind every flight lies a complex tapestry of design, engineering, economics, and finance that keeps the aviation industry moving forward. The period of 2017 to 2018 was a pivotal chapter in the history of commercial aircraft, marked by record orders, groundbreaking technology, and a shifting financial landscape. One of the key players that helped shape this era was **DVB Bank**, a financial institution that provided tailored aviation financing solutions to airlines and leasing companies worldwide. This article offers a comprehensive overview of commercial aircraft in 2017–2018, exploring market trends, technological innovations, and the critical role that DVB Bank played in financing the industry's growth.

Commercial Aircraft Landscape in 2017–2018

Global Demand and Market Trends

The commercial aircraft market during 2017 and 2018 was characterized by robust growth, driven by expanding passenger traffic and the need for more fuel efficient fleets. According t**dnternational Air Transport Association (IATA)**, global passenger traffic grew by 4.8% in 2017 and 5.3% in 2018, surpassing the long term average of 3.5%. This surge in demand translated into a record number of aircraft orders, with manufacturers such as Airbus and Boeing receiving unprecedented volumes.

Key market indicators highlighted the following trends:

- Fleet Renewal: Airlines were replacing older, less efficient models with newer, more economical aircraft.
- Regional Growth: Emerging markets, especially in Asia and the Middle East, were accelerating their fleet expansion.
- Passenger Comfort: Airlines focused on cabin upgrades to attract premium travelers.
- Cost Efficiency: Fuel prices, fluctuating between $1.50 and $3.50 per gallon, pushed operators to seek more fuel efficient engines.

Key Aircraft Manufacturers and Models

Two giants dominated the commercial aircraft market during this period: **Airbus** and **Boeing**. Their flagship models were at the center of numerous orders and deliveries.

1. Airbus A320neo Family: The A320neo (New Engine Option) was a game changer, offering up to 15% fuel savings over the older A320ceo. In 2017, Airbus received 1,000 orders for the A320neo family, a record for any single aircraft model.
2. Boeing 737 MAX: Launched in 2017, the 737 MAX series promised 15% fuel savings and lower operating costs. Despite regulatory challenges, airlines worldwide placed orders, with 2,500 units contracted by 2018.
3. Airbus A350-900 and A350-1000: These wide body models offered superior fuel efficiency and passenger comfort, appealing to long haul operators.
4. Boeing 787 Dreamliner: The 787 continued to see strong demand, especially from low cost carriers and long haul operators seeking a more efficient twin jet.

Economic Drivers and Market Dynamics

Airline Growth and Fleet Expansion

Airlines worldwide were expanding their fleets to meet growing passenger demand. In 2017, the average fleet age fell to 10.5 years, a 0.7 year decrease from the previous year. This trend was driven by the high operational costs associated with older aircraft, such as increased maintenance and fuel consumption.

Low cost carriers (LCCs) such as **Ryanair**, **EasyJet**, and **Southwest Airlines** were particularly aggressive in acquiring new aircraft. Their strategy involved high utilization rates, low operating costs, and a focus on short haul routes.

Fuel Prices and Operational Costs

Fuel prices are the single largest operating expense for airlines. In 2017, the average price of jet fuel was $2.60 per gallon, while in 2018 it rose to $3.10. This increase prompted airlines to prioritize fuel efficient aircraft and to seek innovative financing options to spread the cost of new acquisitions.

Technological Advancements and Sustainability

New Engine Technologies

Engine manufacturers such as **CFM International**, **Pratt & Whitney**, and **GE Aviation** introduced engines that delivered higher thrust-to-weight ratios and lower specific fuel consumption. The **CFM LEAP** engine, for example, was the powerplant of the A320neo and Boeing 737 MAX, offering a 15% reduction in fuel burn.

Emission Reduction Initiatives

Airlines and manufacturers were increasingly focused on reducing carbon emissions. In 2018, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) announced the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA), which required airlines to offset their CO , emissions beyond 2020. This regulatory push accelerated the adoption of more efficient aircraft and alternative fuels.

DVB Bank: A Financial Partner in the Aviation Sector

About DVB Bank

DVB Bank is a leading European financial institution that specializes in aviation financing, leasing, and asset management. With a strong presence in Germany, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, DVB Bank has built a reputation for providing innovative, risk managed solutions tailored to the unique needs of airlines and leasing companies.

DVB Bank''s Commercial Aircraft Financing

During 2017–2018, DVB Bank expanded its aviation portfolio by offering a range of financing products, including:

- Full Lease Agreements: Structured leases that allowed airlines to acquire aircraft without large upfront capital.
- Sale and Leaseback: A financing strategy where airlines sold an aircraft and immediately leased it back, freeing up capital for other investments.
- Operating Leases: Short term leases that provided flexibility for airlines to upgrade or replace aircraft in response to market changes.
- Capital Leasing: Long term financing solutions that combined purchase and lease features, providing tax advantages and improved balance sheet visibility.

Case Studies: 2017–2018 Deals

Below are notable examples of how DVB Bank facilitated aircraft financing during this period:

1. Air France–KLM Group: DVB Bank provided a €250 /million operating lease for 20 Airbus A320neo aircraft, enabling the group to modernize its short haul fleet while preserving liquidity.
2. Ryanair: In partnership with DVB Bank, Ryanair secured a €300 /million sale and leaseback arrangement for 30 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft, allowing the carrier to reduce debt and invest in route expansion.
3. Germanwings: DVB Bank offered a capital lease of €180 /million for 15 Airbus A320neo aircraft, giving the airline a flexible financing structure that matched its high utilization rates.

Financing Models and Leasing Trends

Aircraft Leasing vs. Purchase

Leasing has become the preferred method for airlines to acquire new aircraft. According to **FlightGlobal**, leasing accounted for 70% of all aircraft deliveries in 2018. Leasing offers several advantages:

- Reduced upfront capital requirements.
- Flexibility to upgrade or retire aircraft.
- Tax benefits and improved balance sheet metrics.

Impact of Economic Conditions on Financing

Economic uncertainty, particularly in the aftermath of the 2015–2016 oil price crash, made airlines cautious about large capital expenditures. Financing institutions like DVB Bank responded by offering flexible payment schedules, lower interest rates, and tailored risk mitigation strategies. These measures helped airlines navigate market volatility while still investing in modern, efficient fleets.

Regulatory Environment and Safety Standards

International Aviation Regulations

Regulatory bodies such as the **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)** and the **European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)** set stringent safety and environmental standards. In 2017, the FAA introduced the **Revised FAA 25 hour Rule**, which required airlines to increase crew training and reduce fatigue, influencing aircraft design and operational procedures.

Impact on Aircraft Lifecycle

Regulations also affected aircraft lifecycle management. For example, the 2018 **ICAO Safety Management System (SMS)** mandate required airlines to implement comprehensive safety oversight, impacting maintenance schedules and fleet renewal decisions.

Future Outlook Post-2018

Emerging Markets

Asia-Pacific and the Middle East remained the fastest growing regions for commercial aircraft orders. Airlines such as **Qatar Airways**, **Emirates**, and **Air India** continued to place large orders for wide body aircraft, reflecting the growing demand for long haul connectivity.

Next Gen Aircraft

Manufacturers are investing heavily in next generation aircraft. The **Airbus A321XLR** and the **Boeing 737 MAX 10**

represent the next step in fuel efficiency and range. Meanwhile, research into sustainable aviation fuels (SAFs) and electric propulsion is gaining momentum, promising a significant reduction in carbon footprints.

Conclusion

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