

Emirates successfully completes SAF test flight

- A Monitor Desk Report

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Emirates has operated its first milestone demonstration flight on a Boeing 777-300ER, powering one of its engines 100pc with Neste's sustainable aviation fuel (SAF).

The flight took off on 30 January from Dubai International Airport flying for more than one hour over the Dubai coastline. It is the first demonstration flight in the Middle East and North Africa in which one of the aircraft engines was powered by 100pc SAF.

Neste and Emirates worked alongside partners GE Aerospace, Boeing, Honeywell and Virent for over a year to develop a sustainable fuel that closely replicates the properties of conventional jet fuel.

Neste provided their approved Neste MY Sustainable Aviation (HEFA-SPK) to which aromatic components in Virent's HDO-SAK were added to produce a 100pc drop-in jet fuel that meets all the jet fuel requirements.

Eighteen tons of SAF fully made from renewable raw materials powered one GE90 engine during the flight, with conventional fossil jet fuel powering the other engine.

“This flight is a milestone moment for Emirates and a positive step for our industry

as we work collectively to address one of our biggest challenges – reducing our carbon footprint. It has been a long journey to finally see this experimental SAF flight take off. Such initiatives are critical contributors not only to the industry body of knowledge, but also to demonstrating the use of higher blends of SAF for future regulatory approvals,” said Adel Al Redha, chief operating officer, Emirates Airline.

"Sustainable Aviation Fuel plays a crucial role in reducing the emissions of air travel, but to fully leverage its decarbonisation potential we need to enable 100pc SAF use.

“Test flights like this Emirates flight with Neste MY Sustainable Aviation Fuel are an important step towards 100pc SAF certification. Neste is working closely together with partners to accelerate the availability and use of SAF as we increase our SAF production capacity to 1.5 million tons per annum by the end of this year. We look forward to growing the supply of SAF also to Dubai,” said Jonathan Wood, Vice President EMEA, renewable Aviation at Neste.

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