

# “New Kid on the Block”



## Irkut MC-21's Maiden Flight

On 28 May 2017, the first MC-21-300 airliner made its maiden flight at the Irkutsk Aviation Plant in south-eastern Siberia. The flight lasted 30 minutes, with a maximum altitude of 1,000 metres and speed of 300 km/h, and included validation of in-flight stability and controllability, and also a range of engine response tests. The flight culminated with a planned go-around before landing, a technique typical for maiden flights of new aircraft types.

The aircraft was commanded by test pilot Oleg Kononenko with Roman Taskayev, as his co-pilot, both holding the title of ‘Hero of the Russian Federation,’ their country’s highest honour. Kononenko reported that the flight “was normal” and that there were “no obstacles” that should preclude further flight testing of the MC-21. Taskayev noted that “the characteristics of the power plant are confirmed, and all aircraft systems operated without glitches.”

As Irkut Corporation President Oleg Demchenko stated, “today is a historic day for our personnel and the whole team that worked on the MC-21. We incorporated

the most advanced technologies in our aircraft to provide enhanced comfort for passengers and improved efficiency for operators. I am happy to declare the maiden flight of the MC-21 aircraft has been successfully accomplished. I congratulate all project participants!”

As Yury Slyusar, the President of United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) then stressed, “the MC-21 is created through broad cooperation, where together with Irkut,

other enterprises of the United Aircraft Corporation are active participants, namely Aerocomposit, Ulyanovsk and Voronezh aircraft plants, and the UAC Integration Centre in Moscow. This is an important stage in the formation of a new industrial model at UAC. According to our estimates, the global demand in the MC-21 segment will be about 15,000 new aircraft in the next 20 years, and I am sure airlines will appreciate our new aircraft.”



*The 'A' Team after MC-21's maiden flight*