

NORTHWEST AIRLINES CORP

Form 425

September 18, 2008

Filed by Delta Air Lines, Inc.  
Pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act of 1933  
and deemed filed pursuant to Rule 14a-12  
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Subject Company: Northwest Airlines Corporation  
Commission File No.: 1-15285

On September 18, 2008 Edward H. Bastian, President and Chief Financial Officer of Delta presented to the 2008 Calyon Securities U.S. Airline Conference. The following materials were used in conjunction with the presentation.

Statements in the following presentation that are not historical facts, including statements regarding our estimates, expectations, beliefs, intentions, projections or strategies for the future, may be “forward-looking statements” as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. All forward-looking statements involve a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from the estimates, expectations, beliefs, intentions, projections and strategies reflected in or suggested by the forward-looking statements. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, the cost of aircraft fuel; the impact that our indebtedness will have on our financial and operating activities and our ability to incur additional debt; the restrictions that financial covenants in our financing agreements will have on our financial and business operations; labor issues; interruptions or disruptions in service at one of our hub airports; our increasing dependence on technology in our operations; our ability to retain management and key employees; the ability of our credit card processors to take significant holdbacks in certain circumstances; the effects of terrorist attacks; and competitive conditions in the airline industry.

Forward-looking statements in the presentation that relate to our proposed merger transaction with Northwest Airlines Corporation include, without limitation, our expectations with respect to the synergies, costs and charges, capitalization and anticipated financial impacts of the merger transaction and related transactions; approval of the merger transaction and related transactions by shareholders; the satisfaction of the closing conditions to the merger transaction and related transactions; and the timing of the completion of the merger transaction and related transactions. Factors that may cause the actual results to differ materially from the expected results include, but are not limited to, the possibility that the expected synergies will not be realized, or will not be realized within the expected time period, due to, among other things, (1) the airline pricing environment; (2) competitive actions taken by other airlines; (3) general economic conditions; (4) changes in jet fuel prices; (5) actions taken or conditions imposed by the United States and foreign governments; (6) the willingness of customers to travel; (7) difficulties in integrating the operations of the two airlines; (8) the impact of labor relations; and (9) fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates. Other factors include the possibility that the merger does not close, including due to the failure to receive required stockholder or regulatory approvals, or the failure of other closing conditions.

Additional information concerning risks and uncertainties that could cause differences between actual results and forward-looking statements is contained in Delta’s Securities and Exchange Commission filings, including its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007 and Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2008. Caution should be taken not to place undue reliance on Delta’s forward-looking statements, which represent Delta’s views only as of September 18, 2008, and which Delta has no current intention to update.

#### Additional Information About the Merger and Where to Find It

In connection with the proposed merger, Delta has filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) a Registration Statement on Form S-4 (No. 333-151060), as amended, that includes a joint proxy statement of Delta and Northwest, dated August 8, 2008, and that also constitutes a prospectus of Delta. Delta and Northwest urge investors and security holders to read the joint proxy statement/prospectus regarding the proposed merger because it contains important information. You may obtain copies of all documents filed with the SEC regarding this transaction, free of charge, at the SEC’s website ([www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov)). You may also obtain these documents, free of charge, from Delta’s website ([www.delta.com](http://www.delta.com)) under the tab “About Delta” and then under the heading “Investor Relations” and then under the item “SEC Filings.” You may also obtain these documents, free of charge, from Northwest’s website ([www.nwa.com](http://www.nwa.com)) under the tab “About Northwest” and then under the heading “Investor Relations” and then under the item “SEC Filings and Section 16 Filings.”

Delta, Northwest and their respective directors, executive officers and certain other members of management and employees may be soliciting proxies from Delta and Northwest stockholders in favor of the merger. Information regarding the persons who may, under the rules of the SEC, be deemed participants in the solicitation of Delta and Northwest stockholders in connection with the proposed merger are set forth in the joint proxy statement/prospectus. You can find additional information about Delta’s executive officers and directors in its definitive proxy statement filed with the SEC on April 25, 2008 related to Delta’s 2008 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. You can find additional information about Northwest’s executive officers and directors in its Amendment to its Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on April 29, 2008. You can obtain free copies of these documents from Delta and Northwest using the contact information above.

Delta Air Lines  
Edward H. Bastian  
President and Chief Financial Officer  
Calyon Securities U.S. Airline Conference  
September 18, 2008

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This presentation contains various projections and other forward-looking statements which represent Delta's estimates or expectations regarding future events. All forward-looking statements involve a number of assumptions, risks and uncertainties, many of which are beyond Delta's control, that could cause the actual results to differ materially from the projected results. Factors which could cause such differences include, without limitation, business, economic, competitive, industry, regulatory, market and financial uncertainties and contingencies, as well as the "Risk Factors" discussed in Delta's Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on July 17, 2008 and Form 10-K filed with the SEC on February 15, 2008. Caution should be taken not to place undue reliance on Delta's forward-looking statements, which represent Delta's views only as of the date of this presentation, and which Delta has no current intention to update.

In this presentation, we will discuss certain non-GAAP financial measures in talking about our company's performance. You can find

the reconciliations of those measures to comparable GAAP measures on our website at delta.com.

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Safe Harbor



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- Industry leading June quarter results
  - Revenue premium to the industry
    - Creates powerful global leader
- \$2B expected annual synergies by 2012
- Advance planning de-risks integration
  - Capacity and cost discipline
- Additional cash raising opportunities

Strong operating  
performance

Game-changing  
merger with Northwest

Preserving solid  
liquidity position

Delta Air Lines - Positioned For Long Term Success

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1 Excludes special and non-recurring items  
June Quarter 2008 Pre-Tax Income (\$M)1  
Pre-tax profit despite \$1B increase in fuel input costs  
Delta Posts Top Tier Results

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1 Excludes special and non-recurring items. Delta's performance reflects its reported all-in fuel price of

\$3.13 per gallon. The performance of other airlines is adjusted to this price.

Pre-Tax Margin (%)<sup>1</sup>

Pre-Tax Income (\$M)<sup>1</sup>

June Quarter 2008 Results Normalized for Fuel

Delivers leading pre-tax income in June 2008 quarter

Delta Posts Top Tier Results

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2007

2008

Source: WTI Crude

Delta standalone

While reaching unprecedented  
heights this year...

Recent decline provides substantial  
cash flow relief

Delta + Northwest

\$1 barrel

=

\$80 million per year

\$1 barrel

=

\$135 million per year

Volatile Fuel Prices Persist

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Delta Maintains A Strong Liquidity Position

Note: Liquidity balance includes cash and short term securities. Operating cash flow excludes fuel price increase from 2007 to 2008.

Cash Flow December 2007 vs. December 2008 (\$B)

Fuel Price  
Impact,  
Net of Hedges  
Unrestricted  
Liquidity Balance  
12/31/07  
Unrestricted  
Liquidity Balance  
12/31/08  
Net Debt  
Issuance  
3.1  
3.8  
(1.3)  
Cap Ex  
0.2  
(2.6)  
3.0  
Operating  
Cash Flow

Cash preservation a priority in time of high fuel prices and economic uncertainty

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- Credit card processing agreement extended through 2011 with no holdback
    - Manageable cash trigger thresholds
  - Financing commitments for all aircraft firm orders through 2010
    - Amendment of NWA credit facility
  - Addresses incompatibility - allows us to close transaction with both credit facilities in place
    - Additional cash raising opportunities
      - Affinity card
      - NWA financing activities
    - Commitment for \$500M revolving credit facility
- Delta/Northwest combined expected to have approximately \$6B in cash at year-end  
Focused On Enhancing Liquidity
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Average Jet Fuel

Equivalent Cap

\$3.42

\$3.45

\$2.93

Fuel Hedging Portfolio

Note: Hedging portfolio data as of September 10, 2008

\$3.57

\$3.50

\$3.40

\$3.11

% Hedged

Long-Term Fuel Hedge Strategy in Place

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Current

Projection

Passenger RASM

Up 9 - 10%

Non-Passenger Revenue\*

~\$750 million

Up 25%

Mainline non-fuel CASM

Up 1 - 3%

System Capacity

Down 1%

September 2008 Quarter

Domestic

Down 12%

International

Up 15%

Operating Margin

1 - 3%

Fuel Price

\$3.51

\* Includes Cargo and Other Operating Revenue  
September 2008 Quarter Guidance

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Key Milestones

Merger With Northwest On Track To Close By End Of Year

- Unprecedented 4-year pre-merger joint pilot agreement approved by both pilot groups
  - European Commission merger approval / continued cooperation with DOJ analysis
    - Stockholder meetings - September 25
    - Integration planning teams working diligently
    - Credit agreements aligned facilitating the close
      - Officer leadership team named
      - Announced core IT systems
  - Plan submitted to FAA for single operating certificate
-

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Jul 2008  
2009  
2010  
Senior  
Leaders  
Announced  
Phased Customer  
Deliverables  
Frontline Uniform  
Rollout  
First Combined  
Schedule  
Full Code Share  
Single  
Operating  
Certificate  
Reservations  
Cutover  
Single  
Website  
Combined  
Crew  
Systems  
Integrated  
Rev Mgt  
Systems  
Fully  
Integrated  
Schedule  
Target  
Close  
Management  
Team  
Announced  
Shareholder  
Approval  
Resolution of Labor Representation  
Merger Integration Timeline

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1 Excludes special and non-recurring items

Synergy Phase-in (\$B)1

2.0

1.6

1.1

0.5

2009

2010

2011

2012

Revenue Cost

Detailed plans in place enabling smooth integration

Merger expected to be accretive to shareholders in year one including cash integration costs

Mitigating Merger Integration Risk Is Top Priority

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- Industry leading results
  - Solid top line growth
- Creates premier global airline
  - Approval process on track
- Detailed plan de-risks integration
- Led domestic capacity rationalization
  - Best in class cost structure
- Liquidity opportunities post-merger

Strong operating  
performance

Northwest merger is a  
game-changer

Solid liquidity position

Delta Air Lines - Positioned For Long Term Success

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Non-GAAP Reconciliation  
Mainline Non-Fuel CASM

|   | FORECAST                                     |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|--|---|
|   | September 2008 Quarter<br>Current Projection | September 2008 Quarter<br>Previous Guidance | September 2008 Quarter<br>Current Projection | September 2008 Quarter<br>Previous Guidance |
| Mainline CASM projection  | 12.31¢                                       | 12.44¢                                      | 12.12¢                                       | 11.99¢                                      |
| Items excluded:   |  |   |  |   |
| Aircraft maintenance and staffing services to third parties                       | (0.45)                                       | (0.45)                                      | (0.39)                                       | (0.39)                                      |
| Mainline CASM projection excluding items not related to generation of a seat mile | 11.86¢                                       | 11.99¢                                      | 11.73¢                                       | 11.60¢                                      |
| Fuel expense and related taxes  | (5.29)                                       | (5.29)                                      | (5.23)                                       | (5.23)                                      |
| Mainline CASM projection excluding fuel expense and related taxes                 | 6.57¢  | 6.70¢                                       | 6.50¢  | 6.37¢                                       |
| Change year-over-year in Mainline CASM excluding fuel expense and related taxes   | 1%   | 3%  | 0%   | (2%)  |

Note: Delta's cost per available seat mile (CASM) excludes expenses related to Delta's providing maintenance and staffing services to third parties as these costs are not associated with the generation of a seat mile.

Delta presents mainline CASM excluding fuel expense and related taxes because management believes high fuel prices mask the progress achieved toward its business plan targets.

## Length of Haul Adjusted PRASM

|   | Five<br>Months<br>Ended<br>May 31,<br>2008 |
|---|--|
| PRASM   | 11.63¢                                     |
| Length of haul adjustment,<br>including adjustments for<br>other airline revenue and certain<br>other revenue     | 0.04                                       |
| Length of haul adjusted PRASM,<br>including adjustments for<br>other airline revenue and certain<br>other revenue | 11.67¢                                     |
| Industry average PRASM  | 11.44¢                                     |
| Percentage of industry average  | 102%                                       |

Note: Delta presents length of haul adjusted passenger revenue per available seat mile (PRASM) including adjustments for other airline revenue and certain other revenue because management believes this provides a more meaningful comparison of the company's PRASM to the industry.

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## Pre-Tax Income

|  | June 2008<br>Quarter |
|--|----------------------|
| (in millions)  |                      |
| Pre-tax (loss) income  | \$ (1,163)           |
| Items excluded:  |                      |
| Impairment of goodwill and other<br>intangible assets                          | 1,196                |
| Restructuring, asset writedowns,<br>pension settlements and related<br>items   | 104                  |
| Total items excluded   | 1,300                |
| Pre-tax income (loss) excluding<br>special and reorganization related<br>items | \$ 137               |

Note: Delta excludes special and reorganization related items because management believes the exclusion of these items is helpful to investors to evaluate the company's recurring operational performance.

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