

BOMBARDIER

BACKGROUNDER

LEARJET MILESTONES

August 1962 – Bill Lear moves his business jet company from Altenrhein, Switzerland, to Wichita, Kansas, and names it Lear Jet Corporation

September 15, 1963 – The first Learjet is completed on production tooling and rolled out of factory for preflight equipment installation and final check out.

October 7, 1963 – The first Learjet, the Model 23, completes its first flight.

July 31, 1964 – The Learjet 23 type certificate is awarded.

October 13, 1964 – Delivery of the first production model of the Learjet 23 (serial number 003) to Chemical Industrial Corporation of Cincinnati, Ohio.

May 1965 – Learjet establishes three world speed records, Los Angeles to New York and return in 10 hours, 21 minutes flight time with two refueling stops.

March 17, 1966 – The Learjet 24 becomes the first jet certified to U.S. FAR 25 standards, which superseded the former CAR 4b transport category.

April 10, 1967 – Bill Lear sells controlling interest in Lear Jet Industries to Gates Rubber Company. The name is changed to Gates Learjet Corporation.

February 1968 – Learjet sets time-to-climb record: 6 minutes, 19 seconds to 40,000 feet.

January 1972 – FAA approves Learjet for operation from gravel runways, a business jet first.

August 22, 1973 – The Learjet 35 completes its first flight.

July 1974 – The FAA certifies the Learjet 35 and 36.

April 8, 1975 – Learjet delivers the 500th Learjet, a Learjet 24D to the navy of Mexico.

December 20, 1975 – Groundbreaking ceremonies are held for an all-new 75,600 square-foot facility in Tucson to augment manufacturing and service activities of the Wichita facility.

May 19, 1976 – Golfing legend Arnold Palmer leads a Learjet 36 to an around-the-world record of 48 hours, 48 minutes flight time (57 hours and 26 minutes total).

April 15, 1977 – The FAA certifies operation of Learjet aircraft to 51,000 feet, the highest in civil aviation.

April 1978 – A Learjet 23 is made a permanent exhibit in the general aviation gallery of the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum.

January 30, 1979 – The FAA certifies the Learjet 28/29 series, the world's first production airplane with winglets.

February 21, 1979 – Astronaut Neil Armstrong climbs to 50,000 feet in the Learjet Longhorn 28, setting five world records for business jets at Kitty Hawk, N.C.

1980 – A \$5.2 million expansion is made to the Wichita site and the first production widebody Learjet Longhorn 50 series business jet rolls out.

March 28, 1980 – The 1,000th Learjet is delivered to the Eaton Corporation of Cleveland, Ohio.

March 1981 – The FAA certifies the Learjet 55, the company's first medium sized jet.

May 1983 – The Learjet 55LR sets world speed record by flying from Los Angeles to Paris in 12 hours, 37 minutes with one refueling stop.

September 1985 – Learjet receives contract to build intertank for space shuttle main booster rocket.

June 1986 – The 1,500th Learjet is delivered.

September 1988 – The FAA certifies the Learjet 31 and 55C, the first business aircraft to incorporate delta fins.

June 29, 1990 – Bombardier acquires Learjet.

October 1990 – Bombardier unveils the Model 31A and announces the Learjet 60 project.

June 13, 1991 – The Learjet 60 completes its first flight.

June 1991 – Bombardier establishes the Bombardier Flight Test Center at Learjet in Wichita.

January 1993 – The FAA certifies the Learjet 60, launching into service the quietest business jet in the world.

October 7, 1995 – The Learjet 45 makes its first flight, 32 years after the first Learjet took flight.

February 22, 1997 – A 98,000-square-foot expansion of the Bombardier Flight Test Center is officially marked with a ceremony.

June 19, 1997 – The 100th Learjet 60 sets a record between Pittsburgh and Paris taking 8 hours and 1 minute to cover of 3,452 nautical miles.

July 1998 – First Learjet 45 delivery.

June 13, 1999 – Bombardier announces that the all-new Continental Business Jet, a midsize jet positioned between the Learjet 60 and the Challenger 604, will be assembled at the Wichita facility.

August 20, 1999 – Bombardier delivers the 2,000th Learjet to Parker Hannifin Aerospace (of Cleveland, Ohio).

October 3, 2000 – Delivery of the 200th Learjet 31A to Falcon Air Services of Phoenix, Arizona.

August 14, 2001 – The Bombardier Continental successfully completes its first flight.

May 2002 – Delivery of the 200th Learjet 45, less than four years after aircraft entered service.

July 21, 2002 – Bombardier launches the new Learjet 40 light and Learjet 45 XR super-light jets.

August 31, 2002 – The prototype Learjet 40 completes its first flight, followed by the first flight of the production model six days later on September 5, 2002.

July 11, 2003 – The FAA certifies the Learjet 40 during the 40th anniversary year of the first Learjet flight.

January 21, 2004 – First delivery of the Learjet 40 light business jet.

July 1, 2004 – First delivery of the Learjet 45 XR super-light business jet.

October 11, 2004 – Bombardier launches Special Edition Learjet 60. Bombardier also announces the Learjet 40 XR high-performance light jet.

October 2004 – Bombardier successfully relocates interior completions from Tucson to establish Learjet integrated manufacturing facility in Wichita. To make room, the Continental Business Jet -- re-christened the Challenger 300 -- is relocated to Montreal, Canada.

October 2004 – Delivery of the first Special Edition Learjet 60, the 275th Learjet 60 in the program's history.

November 9, 2005 – The launch of the Learjet 60 XR high-performance midsize jet, the successor to the Special Edition Learjet 60.

July 30, 2007 – Entry into service of the first Learjet 60 XR jet.

October 30, 2007 – Bombardier launches an all-new midsize Learjet, provisionally named NXT.

January 22, 2008 -- Bombardier announces a permanent name for the new aircraft – the Learjet 85. It also announces the selection of Grob Aerospace of Switzerland to develop the all-composite structure of the new *Learjet* 85 and that Grob will also build the first three prototype aircraft.

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