

TRAVEL AND HOSPITALITY

## Emirates completes first 100pc sustainably-fueled flight

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*This Emirates flight will serve as a blueprint for future demonstrations using 100 percent SAF. Image credit: Emirates*

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Dubai, U.A.E.-based airline Emirates has successfully completed its first demonstration flight wherein one engine was powered by 100 percent Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF).

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The Boeing 777-300ER ascended from Dubai International Airport and returned more than an hour later having flown over the city's coastline. This flight supports a larger effort by the aviation industry to further incorporate SAF as a power source for its aircrafts.

"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," said Adel Al Redha, chief operating officer of **Emirates** Airline, in a statement.

### Aiming high

Emirates demonstration flight—the first in the Middle East and North Africa to be fueled using 100 percent SAF—was completed at the beginning of what the United Arab Emirates has dubbed its "Year of Sustainability."

Throughout 2023, the country will demonstrate its commitment to providing new solutions to issues concerning climate change, energy and sustainability. The flight's success marks an advancement toward a future in which 100 percent SAF fuel is approved as a power source for aircrafts.



*The flight was helmed by captains Fali Vajifdar and Khalid Nasser Akram, who were joined by Mr. Redha as well as captain Hassan Hammadi, divisional senior vice president of Emirates flight operations. Image credit: Emirates*

Currently, approval extends only to a combination of 50 percent SAF mixed with an equal contribution of traditional jet fuel.

Future flights looking to test the sole use of SAF will look to the groundbreaking Emirates flight as an example.

To create the winning batch of SAF blend, Emirates called on several of its partners including GE Aerospace, Honeywell and Boeing.

The final concoction included inputs of hydro-processed esters, fatty acids and synthetic paraffinic kerosene provided by Finnish oil services company Neste.

Also part of the blend were elements of synthetic aromatic kerosene provided by US-based renewable energy manufacturer Virent.

Emirates' first completed a flight using the 50/50 mix when it operated a Boeing 777 from Chicago's O'Hare airport in 2017.

Industry-wide, airlines are working to reduce carbon emissions.

Last year, fellow airlines Air France and KLM teamed up with Italian fashion house Valentino for a joint SAF program, whereby clients of all three brands made annual contributions based on the CO2 emissions associated with their travels ([see story](#)).

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