

SE Finance  
HD **Boeing chief to tackle China**  
BY STEVE CREEDY  
WC 397 words  
PD 24 January 2014  
SN The Australian  
SC AUSTLN  
ED 1 - All-round Country  
PG 17  
LA English  
CY © 2014 News Limited. All rights reserved.  
LP

AVIATION: Boeing Australia and South Pacific president Ian Thomas is moving to take on the key **China** market after five years running the aerospace giant's antipodean **operations**.

Mr Thomas, 48, took over the Sydney-based role in 2009 after two years as president of Boeing India. His replacement could be announced as early as next week.

TD

"Ian Thomas is one of our most experienced leaders in international markets," Boeing International president Shep Hill said. "He has made a significant impact on our business in Australia and is well suited to **lead** our activities in **China**, with a focus on further growing our business in one of the world's most dynamic markets for commercial aircraft."

Australia represents Boeing's biggest footprint outside the US with 3400 staff in 27 locations. The **company's operations** here generate revenues of more than \$1 **billion**, with almost \$14bn of sales in the past four years. Composite technology developed in Melbourne is being adopted throughout Boeing.

During his tenure, Mr Thomas has been a keen supporter of Australia's potential to take on hi-tech manufacturing in areas such as aerospace and clean technology. He told the Sir Charles Kingsford Smith memorial lecture in Sydney last year there was a solid future for manufacturing in Australia as new vistas opened and allowed the nation to compete.

Mr Thomas's new role will include a strong focus on new business and industrial partnership opportunities, corporate citizenship projects, and expanding Boeing's presence and relationships with customers and other stakeholders.

In another high-level change, Jet Airways chief executive Gary Toomey quit the post last week after just six months in the job.

The former Ansett boss and Qantas chief financial officer joined Jet Airways after Etihad took a 24 per cent **stake** in the airline and quit with immediate effect last week. He had previously been the chief executive of Airlines PNG.

India's Business Standard newspaper quoted an unnamed Jet Airways source who said Mr Toomey wanted to spend time with his family, who were not keen on living in India, and said there had also differences with chairman Naresh Goyal.

Etihad bought a 24 per cent **stake** in Jet Airways for \$US379 **million** after the Indian government changed the law to allow foreign airlines to invest in domestic carriers.

AVIATION P23

CO boeing : The Boeing Company

**IN** i364 : Aerospace Products/Parts | i3640010 : Civil Aircraft | iaer : Aerospace/Defense | iindstrls : Industrial Goods

**NS** ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

**RE** austr : Australia | china : China | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | ausnz : Australia/Oceania | bric : BRIC Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**PUB** News Ltd.

**AN** Document AUSTLN0020140123ea1o0001y