

LONG BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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FOR RELEASE MAY 10

LONG BEACH, Calif., May 10--Completion of the Douglas Aircraft company's new \$20,000,000 DC-8 jetliner manufacturing plant was marked today at a dedication ceremony and civic luncheon held in a portion of the huge final assembly building.

One of the largest of its type in the United States, the plant consists of two massive, hangar-type buildings for structures assembly and final assembly, and three smaller shop services buildings.

The main buildings are so huge that their floor space is equivalent to 18 football fields, or approximately one million square feet. The total building area covers 23 acres.

Approximately 500 civic leaders, high-ranking military officers and representatives of the world's leading airlines attended the ceremony, sponsored by the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce. George J. Badenhausen, president of the chamber, was master of ceremonies.

A feature of the program was the presentation of a "citation of merit" to Donald W. Douglas, president and board chairman of the Douglas company, by the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce. Music was provided by the Long Beach Municipal Band.

The new plant is located on a 55-acre site on the east side of Lakewood Blvd. south of Carson St. It is directly across the street from the plant where Douglas has manufactured planes for the Air Force since 1941.

Ground was broken for the DC-8 facility April 2, 1956, after the citizens of Long Beach had approved a bond issue to lengthen the municipal

airport runway to 10,000 feet. Floor space of all the Douglas facilities at Long Beach now totals approximately 4,000,000 square feet.

Through close teamwork between the Douglas Santa Monica and Long Beach Divisions work was begun on the DC-8 jetliner several months before the contractor completed the main buildings. Fabrication of parts started in September, 1956, in accordance with a long-planned production schedule.

In the months that followed a succession of tooling jigs, some of massive proportions, were set up to meet the manufacturing schedule. Many of the key personnel now working in assembly operations were engaged for a year in pre-production planning at Santa Monica. This enabled them to begin assembly operations at Long Beach as soon as the structures building was completed last January.

C.L. Peck Construction and Realty Company, Los Angeles, was the contractor for the new buildings, which were designed by Holmes and Narver, Inc., Los Angeles.

Completion of the DC-8 final assembly building is the latest step in the Douglas jet transport program. The company's decision to build the 550 mile per hour commercial plane was announced in June, 1955, and was soon followed by a series of orders from airlines throughout the world.

To date 121 transports have been ordered by 13 leading airlines at a cost of \$620,000,000. The airlines are Pan American, United, National, Eastern, Delta, Panagra, Trans-Canada, KLM-Royal Dutch, Japan, Scandinavian, Swissair, and two French air lines, T.A.I. and U.A.T.