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## The UAE - A Gateway to International Trade

by Tom Wells



H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al-Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive, Emirates Airline and Group

Few companies exemplify the economic success story of the United Arab Emirates as vividly as Emirates Airline. As so often with the UAE, the rise of Emirates Airline as a global player in the commercial aviation industry was both meteoric and profound. From its inception in 1985, and with just two aircraft flying out of Dubai, Emirates has gone on to become one of the leading airlines globally, now flying to over 120 destinations worldwide with a fleet of 170 aircraft. Today, the airline accounts for well over a third of all air traffic flying out of Dubai International Airport and is the world's largest operator of two of the most commercially significant aircraft, the Airbus A380 and Boeing 777.

record numbers of orders, (totalling 230 aircraft worth USD 84bn as of November 2011), further underpinning the airline's aim of transforming Dubai into a global aviation hub. With one of the youngest and most technologically advanced aircraft fleets in the world coupled with a strong commitment to green environmental policy, Emirates Airline is certainly a leading light in the exciting growth market of the UAE, helping to ensure a bright future for its population over the years and decades to come.

Within the United Arab Emirates there are a lot of individual success stories. The emirate of Dubai has been and remains an economic pillar for the UAE and has been a key growth driver in recent years. Much of the UAE's strong economic growth can be attributed to the continual strong perfor-

Looking ahead there are no signs of this success slowing down: Emirates Airline has announced

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