

Piedmont to Buy 6 More 737 Jetliners

By Brad Rochester
Staff Reporter

The airline division of Piedmont Aviation, Inc., will buy six more Boeing 737 medium-range jets for about \$25 million.

Company officials declined comment last night.

Announcement of the purchase is expected Monday.

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The airline is exercising its option on the six jets and the first of them is expected to arrive in the spring, with delivery of all six completed by fall.

A spokesman for the Boeing company at Renton, Wash., said



Boeing 737 has two jet engines.

yesterday that the 2-jet planes are the 223rd through the 228th 737s ordered by 11 airlines in the United States and six other countries. Ninety of them have been delivered.

"Those of us who had the pleasure of visiting Winston-Salem for the christening of

Piedmont's first 737 last June are especially glad to know that the twin jets are serving Piedmont well, and that more 737s are destined to carry Piedmont's colors," said a Boeing spokesman.

Piedmont has six 737's, ordered in January 1966 and

delivered this summer and fall.

It took the option for six more with the original purchase.

The 737 carries more than 90 passengers at cruising speeds of up to 580 miles an hour. It has a range of about 2,500 miles, and is designed to operate from medium-sized airports.

A distinctive wing flap system allows it to land on short runways and creates the lowest approach speed of any jet transport.

Boeing officials say the cabin space in the 737 is the same as the largest intercontinental jet—more than 12 feet wide and 7 feet high.

Piedmont's present 737s are arranged to seat five passengers across, with three on one side of the aisle and two on the other.