

The exclusively designed “Shitamachi Bobsleigh Jet” is in service! Supporting industry-government-academia collaboration project in Ota City from the sky

Skymark “Shitamachi Bobsleigh Jet” service, starting from October 6, 2017

Skymark Airlines Inc. started services of their exclusive “Shitamachi Bobsleigh Jet” from October 6, 2017. This was realized through collaboration and planning with the Shitamachi Bobsleigh Network Project Promotion Committee (hereafter “Shitamachi PJ”).

The “Shitamachi” bobsleigh is a chassis manufactured through the collaboration of small and medium-sized manufacturers in 150 locations within Ota City, Tokyo. This is a collaboration project that was started in 2011 between industry-government-academia representing Japan. The University of Tokyo's Graduate School designed and developed the runners (blades); Toray Carbon Magic Co., Ltd. was in charge of the CFRP (carbon fiber-reinforced plastic); Software Cradle Co., Ltd. conducted the aerodynamic analysis; and the Ota City Industrial Promotion Organization provided clerical support.

Despite experiencing the bitter rejection by the Japanese Bobsleigh, Luge and Skeleton Federation (JBLSF), for the bobsleighs to be used by the Japanese Olympic team, twice, in 2013 and 2015, it was adopted by the Jamaica team in 2016. As of October 2017, 10 sleds have been completed, and 4 sleds have been provided for use by the Jamaican athletes, and there is continued excitement among the craftsmen in the small factories of Ota City as they continue to make improvements, working towards the Pyeongchang Olympics, to be held on February 18 and 19, 2018.

On the other hand, Skymark, based around Haneda Airport, is operating 19 routes to 10 cities. There are about 3,000 small factories in Ota City, which contains Haneda Airport, and these are famous throughout the world for supporting the high technical levels of Japanese craftsmanship. Skymark, supporting the challenge of the Shitamachi PJ throughout the world, has started services of the exclusively designed “Shitamachi Bobsleigh Jet”, as a means of promoting the industry in Ota City. Its maiden voyage was the flight BC301 that left for Kagoshima at 07:55 on October 6. Moving forward, the route shall not be fixed, and by December it shall cover all routes operated by Skymark with approximately six flights per day.

The new No. 10 unit drawn on the aircraft, and the new No. 9 unit unveiled

The new No. 9 unit is depicted on the “New No. 10 unit” Shitamachi bobsleigh, which was created to reflect the requests of the Jamaican athletes. The front and rear frame parts created from integrally-stiffened metal have been reduced in weight - the weight of the component unit has been reduced by 14kg, a 35%

reduction from the same part in the No. 9 unit created in March this year. Furthermore, in addition to strengthening the rear axle, the rounded frame pipe has been changed to a square pipe. This makes it easy to change the position of the accessories and improved ease of maintenance.

“The new No. 9 unit” debuted at the press conference held at Haneda Airport on October 5. Other than the fact that the frame had a round pipe, this was the same model as the No. 10 unit.

The Jamaican team ace member on she thoughts about the Olympics

The Jamaican team ace member, Jazmine Fenlator, is using the new No. 10 unit as the main machine, and the No. 9 unit as the sub-machine. The male athletes have been provided with the No. 6 unit and No. 8 unit, which were shipped to the Jamaican team for the camp held in Calgary, Canada on September 25.

After the press conference for the new No. 9 unit, it was shipped with the new No. 10 unit to Pyeongchang, South Korea, for an international training event for the athletes held from October 22 to 28.

A video letter from Jazmine Fenlator was introduced at the press conference. “We are truly grateful for the Shitamachi PJ who have spent sleepless nights making such fine-tuned components. All of your craftsmanship is truly superb. I am prepared both mentally and physically, to achieve a medal. I am fighting not only for myself, and for Jamaica, but for everybody in the Shitamachi PJ as well”.



Shitamachi Bobsleigh new No. 9 unit and Shitamachi Bobsleigh Jet



Specially-designed headrest cover



Shitamachi Bobsleigh Jet from Haneda Airport to Naha Airport, October 9, 2017

[Exclusive Design “Shitamachi Bobsleigh Jet” Overview]

- Aircraft/registration number: Boeing 737-800 jet/JA73NT
- Predicted flight period: Planned from October 6, 2017 to around December 2018
- Flight routes: All routes
- Design concept: Fashioned in Japanese style, the theme is “plum blossom”, the flower of Ota City. Furthermore, the dynamic design also expresses the fast pace of the bobsleigh. The slogans “From Ota City to the World” and “From Haneda Airport Nationwide” are depicted in large font on the fuselage.
- Logos: In addition to the left and right of the rear of the aircraft, sponsor logos are also attached to the front of the fuselage. The Jamaican national flag and Symark logo are also depicted near the front-left door.
- Headrest cover: We have placed specially-designed headrest covers in the seats of the “Shitamachi Bobsleigh Jet”.

References:

Shitamachi Bobsleigh Network Project Official Page

<http://bobsleigh.jp/>

Skymark press release special design jet “Shitamachi Bobsleigh Jet” Service supporting the challenge of craftsmanship in Ota City

http://www.skymark.co.jp/ja/company/press/171005_press.pdf

Shitamachi Bobsleigh PR2017

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YEsyO5KVT98>

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Some of her works include “Shitamachi Bobsleigh”, “Building a small/medium-sized company that won’t crumble”, “Building Craftsmen”, and “Made in Ota City”. She is currently researching

small/medium-sized enterprises based on her field work in small factories throughout the country.

<http://www.officewill.co.jp>