

Backgrounder: Basic facts about Bombardier Dash 8 Q400 jet

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A Bombardier Dash 8 Q400 jet which crashed into a house in New York state on Thursday, killing all 48 people aboard and one person on the ground, is a twin-engine turboprop airliner.

Produced by Canada's Bombardier Aerospace, the aircraft has a carrying capacity of 78 passengers and can reach a cruise speed of 650 km per hour. Its maximum operating altitude is 7,600 meters and has a maximum range of 2,390 km.

The jet is known for its advanced Active Noise and Vibration Suppression System, which reduces the noise level greatly in the cabin. The "Q" in the name of the jet stands for "quite."

The Dash 8 was previously designed by de Havilland Canada. Its first flight was on June 20, 1983 and the airliner entered service in 1984. Bombardier took over the production of Dash 8 and put the focus on the design of the Q series after it acquired de Havilland Canada.

The Dash 8 Q400 went into operation in 2000.

In 2007, Bombardier urged airline operators around the world to suspend flying some of the Q400's after two landing gear incidents within four days.

The majority of the suspended Q400 flights resumed operation after careful checkups. However, Scandinavian Airlines, which saw one of its Q400 catch fire after an emergency landing on Sept. 9, 2007, decided to terminate the service of 27, Q400 aircraft in its fleet.

"Source: Xinhua"