Largest airline formed The boards of rival U.S. companies

Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines have agreed to merge in a \$3bn-plus deal that would create the world's biggest carrier



BIGGEST AIRLINES By passengers carried, 000s* American Airlines

99,835 1 2 Southwest Airlines 96.277

Delta Air Lines 73,584

3 69,265

4 United Airlines 5 Northwest Airlines 55.925

7 Air France 49,411

Lufthansa 51,213 6

8 All Nippon Airways

49.226 9 Japan Airlines International 48,911

10 China Southern Airlines 48,512

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*International + Domestic, 2006

Source: IATA