Airbus and Boeing may end up with as many as 200 new planes without buyers next year because airlines are unable to obtain funds to pay for them amid the global credit squeeze.

Eddy Pieniazek, a director of airline industry consultant Ascend, said yesterday: "There is a funding gap and we do not really know where the money will be coming from."

The funding gap might be as large as $20 billion (R194 billion) for Airbus and Boeing plane deliveries, which were expected to total about $65 billion next year, according to JPMorgan Securities. – Bloomberg

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