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BRITISH AIRWAYS RETURNS TO SHORT-HAUL EUROPEAN FLYING FROM GATWICK AIRPORT

After two years British Airways returns to international short-haul flying from Gatwick Airport today (Tuesday 29 March), as its first service departed for Larnaca at 6:25am. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic the airline suspended its European operation at Gatwick Airport, moving a number of flights over to Heathrow. Today marks a milestone in the airline's recovery as it finally returns to international short-haul flying from the airport. Initially services will operate under the British Airways Air Operators Certificate (AOC), before moving operations to a new British Airways branded subsidiary, BA Euroflyer* later in the year. The new airline will operate in a similar manner to the company's existing subsidiary BA Cityflyer, flying under the British Airways brand and delivering a premium British Airways product. On the first day of operation, British Airways will operate four short-haul flights to Larnaca, Amsterdam, Paphos and Tenerife. In total, customers will have the choice of 35 destinations to fly to



from Gatwick, before more destinations are added later this year.

Not only has the British Airways return to Gatwick created more choice for customers, but also helped create jobs as the airline undertook both a cabin crew and pilot recruitment campaign to fill positions at its new subsidiary.

Tom Stoddart, Acting CEO British Airways Euroflyer, said "Today marks a significant milestone for British Airways as we operate our first European services from Gatwick in two years." "I am really proud of what we have created at Gatwick, we have an excellent team with

lots of new and exciting talent. I am looking forward in anticipation to see our newest subsidiary grow, adding new routes and providing customers with more options to get away on holiday with a premium British Airways service."

Millar Smith, British Airways Euroflyer Crew member, said: "I was over the moon when I found out that I had been accepted as crew for British Airways, it is my dream job! Before this I worked as a 999 handler for the London Ambulance Service, which has been incredibly useful throughout my training with the airline. British Airways is a premium British airline and

more on pg 2

ETIHAD AIRWAYS UNVEILS NEW 'SUSTAINABILITY50' AIRBUS A350 ON INAUGURAL FLIGHT TO PARIS

Next-generation aircraft will be deployed to key North American and Indian destinations by peak summer season

'Sustainability50' programme to drive operational efficiencies and support Etihad's decarbonisation efforts

Etihad Airways today unveiled its new Airbus A350-1000, registration A6-XWB, on a special inaugural commercial

flight from Abu Dhabi to Paris. The aircraft is the first A350 to be operated by a UAE airline, and the first of five A350s set to join Etihad's fleet over the coming months. The first flight departed Abu



Dhabi for Paris Charles de Gaulle at 7.30am with a delegation including

Air Canada and Mexico's Aeromar Form Interline Partnership

Seamless connectivity between both airlines' networks via Mexico City, Puerto Vallarta and Cancun Air Canada and Aeromar have announced the launch of an interline partnership that offers seamless connectivity for customers between destinations in Mexico and Air Canada's global network via Mexico City, Puerto Vallarta and Cancun. Customers are now able to book flights on both airlines on a single ticket itinerary and experience the benefits of seamless check-in, boarding, and baggage transfer throughout their entire journey. Tickets can be booked online at aircanada.com and through travel agents.

Air Canada serves seven destinations in Mexico (Mexico City, Cancun, Puerto Vallarta, Los Cabos, Cozumel, Ixtapa/Zihuatanejo, and Huatulco) from Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Calgary, Ottawa, Halifax, Quebec and Winnipeg, with connections through its global network to more than 185 destinations worldwide. Air Canada's overall capacity to Mexico will exceed pre-pandemic levels this summer, while further ramping up to more than 100 weekly flights next winter.

Aeromar's connecting destinations include Acapulco, Aguascalientes, Colima, Ciudad Victoria, Flores/Tikal, Guadalajara, Havana, Ixtapa/Zihuatanejo, Ixtepec, Piedras Negras, Puerto Escondido, Tepic and Villahermosa.

The airlines are also committed to exploring deeper cooperation in the form of a codeshare relationship and are currently working on the launch of Aeromar as a partner of Air Canada's Aeroplan program. Expected to be in place before summer 2022, this cooperation will be Aeroplan's only partner airline based in Mexico, offering members even more options to accrue and redeem Aeroplan points on all Aeromar operated flights.

"Mexico is an extremely

popular market for Canadian leisure travellers as well as a significant business market due to our countries' trading relationship. We are very pleased to partner with Aeromar because it allows us to offer our customers convenient access to a wider range of destinations throughout Mexico. Moreover, this agreement will advance our strategy to strengthen our major Canadian hubs with connecting traffic. We look forward to deepening our partnership with Aeromar to the benefit of both airlines' customers," said Mark Galardo, Senior Vice President Network Planning and Revenue Management at Air Canada.

"Aeromar is honoured to partner with Air Canada, founding member of Star Alliance and highly regarded for its award-winning service, modern fleet, commercial innovation and extensive global route network, and to enable its increased reach in Mexico. Canada and Mexico share very intense commercial and tourism ties, with air travel a key enabler for growth. We expect our collaboration to develop rapidly and are grateful to Air Canada for its trust and commitment to Aeromar. As Mexico's leading regional carrier, Aeromar continues to add value to travellers by further expanding our portfolio of interline agreements with world-class airlines such as Air Canada," added Fabricio Cojuc, Aeromar's Chief Network Officer.

Travelling internationally? Visit Air Canada's Travel Ready Hub for the latest government entry requirements. Customers are responsible for ensuring they meet all government entry requirements, including holding the correct travel documents, visas, any required health certificates, and all other eligibility requirements for any flights they purchase. Government requirements may change with little notice.

BRITISH AIRWAYS LAUNCHES COMMUNITY FUND TO DELIVER LIFE-CHANGING OPPORTUNITIES AND SUPPORT TO COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UK

The BA Better World Community Fund will further support organisations and projects in communities across the UK.

Charities and social enterprise groups are invited to apply for funding through the airline's Crowdfunder page.

The airline is supporting four organisations for its first round of funding, including Fantasy Wings, Global Grooves, Energy Garden and Black2Nature.

British Airways has launched its new community-based initiative, the BA Better World Community Fund.

The fund, which is part of the airline's BA Better World sustainability programme, will further support organisations and projects that have a positive impact in communities within the UK, enabling British Airways to support projects that deliver benefits for climate, communities, colleagues and nature, all of which align with its sustainability aims. It also enables British Airways to deploy its people and resources to help communities affected by crisis.

The BA Better World Community Fund invites charities and social enterprise groups to apply for funding from the airline via Crowdfunder here, where



applications will be reviewed and selected by the Community Governance Board*. Organisations can apply for funds and allocation will be set against criteria that match the sustainability aims of the airline's BA Better World programme, which includes championing diversity, inclusion and wellbeing, tackling climate change, engaging colleagues in positive action and supporting communities around the world.

Organisations can use the funding to further create a positive impact in their communities, such as by developing a new approach, product or technology, implementing a new initiative or even by expanding existing

services to a new area to reach more people.

British Airways has kickstarted the launch by selecting four organisations for its first round of funding through this process, including Fantasy Wings, Global Grooves, Energy Garden and Black2Nature. These projects deliver many benefits, including increasing diversity in the aviation industry, bringing inspirational Carnival arts from around the world to communities in the UK and globally, installing green spaces in London's urban areas and organising nature camps in the countryside for young people from visible minority ethnic backgrounds. Lisa Tremble, Director of

Corporate Affairs and Sustainability and Chair of the Community Governance Board at British Airways said: "We are really proud to launch this exciting initiative, and as the nation's flagship carrier airline we know how important it is to continue to connect with and invest in communities.

"We have supported our colleagues and customers in charitable giving for decades and look forward to doing even more to make a difference and offer life-changing opportunities to many community-led projects in the UK."

Simon Deverell, Founder and Creative Director at Crowdfunder said: "We are delighted to be powering BA's Community Fund programme. At Crowdfunder, we believe it's hugely important to connect corporates with communities and bring impactful funding opportunities to those who wouldn't otherwise receive them. We look forward to seeing the amazing projects that will become possible through this fund."

British Airways has supported community-led initiatives across the UK and around the world for more than thirty years and this new Community Fund adds another important element to the airline's portfolio of community support.

The new Community Fund complements the airline's Flying Start programme, the airline's global charity partnership with Comic Relief that has raised more than £26 million since it first began in 2010, helping more than 925,000 people in some of the most disadvantaged communities in the UK and around the world. British Airways has offered colleagues the opportunity to donate to any charity of their choice through its Payroll Giving scheme. It has also worked with the Disaster's Emergency Committee in times of crisis, including providing continued support for the Ukrainian Humanitarian Appeal and flew 45 tonnes of medical aid to India during the height of the pandemic last year.

from pg 1

that is what excited me about the job role. My first service will be to Tenerife and I can't wait!"

Customers flying on the airline's new subsidiary will receive the same high level of service they expect of British Airways as well as enjoying the benefits of travelling with the UK's flag carrier including a generous baggage allowance, free water and snacks, free seat selection at -24 hours and frequent flyer benefits which include lounge access.

All of the airline's services will have a Club Europe (business class) cabin setting it apart from its no frills competitors. Customers flying in this cabin will have access to a premium check-in experience, exclusive lounges and a complimentary gourmet meal and bar service on board.

Customers in the airline's Euro Traveller (economy) cabin will be able to purchase food before travel which will include fresh options as part of the airline's 'Speedbird Café' menu and / or order ambient products and drinks onboard via their mobile phone.

The return of European short-haul flying from Gatwick comes a day after the airline returned to its home at Gatwick South Terminal following its reopening. To mark the occasion the airline also showed off its new dedicated World Traveller Plus check-in zone which is available for customers flying on a long-haul service with the airline. The new zone which sits alongside the airline's Club World desks gives those travelling in its World Traveller Plus cabin (premium economy) an exclusive check-in experience. They will shortly be rolled out at Heathrow, followed by the rest of the British Airways network.

JMC Group contracted to work with Boeing at Gatwick Work entails B737 passenger to freighter conversions

JMC Group will commence work in late April on a two-year programme supporting Boeing at its Gatwick Airport MRO facility. JMC engineers will partner with Boeing on B737 passenger to freighter conversions. A new dedicated conversion line at Boeing's Gatwick hangar has been established for the work, as demand for narrow-body freighters continues to grow. "We are very pleased to have won this important contract from Boeing," said Tony Eversden, JMC Group Head of Engineering. "To be involved in the freighter conversion programme – the first for Boeing at its new dedicated facility in the UK - gives us great pride. We tendered for the work back in the autumn, shortly after MRO Europe in Amsterdam and look forward to working closely with Boeing on the assignment. We

pride ourselves on delivering the highest standards in such specialist work."

Boeing opened its Gatwick Hangar in November 2019, reinforcing its commitment to the aftermarket. Close to the simulator centres in Crawley, the facility reflects Boeing's commitment to the European aviation market and aerospace expertise in the UK.

About JMC Group

The JMC Group was established in 2008. JMC's dedicated engineering team provides a wide range of scheduled, fixed price and ad-hoc maintenance services to aviation and aerospace clients around the world. Its portfolio of customers includes commercial, military and corporate jet clients, while services offered by JMC



B737

Engineering include AOG recovery support, business jet support, teardowns, structural repairs, modifications, consultancy, interiors and airport parking and storage. Every project delivered by JMC is meticulously planned and executed in the most cost-effective manner.

For more information see: www.jmc-grouppltd.com

ETIHAD AND ABU DHABI AIRPORTS TEAM UP TO LAUNCH ETIHAD GUEST'S 'MILES ON THE GO'

Abu Dhabi Airports, the owner and operator of the emirate's five airports, and Etihad Guest, the award-winning loyalty programme of Etihad Airways, signed an agreement to launch the "Miles on the Go" product at Abu Dhabi International Airport. Etihad Guest members can now instantly earn and spend Etihad Guest Miles when shopping at participating merchants located at Abu Dhabi International Airport. By simply downloading the Etihad Guest app and linking up to five Visa cards to their profiles, members can spend their miles and receive cashback on their cards. Members can earn 1 Etihad Guest Mile and 1 Etihad Guest Tier Mile for every AED3 spent at any of the 119 participating outlets including, lounges, luxury retail stores, dining establishments and Duty-Free outlets from over 35 brands. Francois Bourrienne, Chief Commercial Officer, Abu Dhabi Airports, said: "Abu Dhabi Airports always strives to strengthen ties with strategic partners to provide a remarkable customer experience at our airports. We



are pleased to collaborate with Etihad Guest at their home airport and we are committed to introducing innovative solutions that will enhance the passengers' journey through Abu Dhabi International Airport". Terry Daly, Executive Director Guest Experience, Brand & Marketing, Etihad Airways, said: "We are continuously enhancing our Etihad Guest loyalty programme for our valued members. The 'Miles on the Go' product offers our members a rewarding experience with more options to earn and spend miles. We are delighted to welcome Abu Dhabi International Airport to our award-winning mobile

app. "As more passengers pass through Abu Dhabi Airports every day, we look forward to rewarding them as they shop from the wide range of Duty-free outlets or dine at their leisure." The successful and first-of-its-kind 'Miles on the Go' technology was launched in 2020. It has since won multiple innovation and industry awards. Complementing the existing travel partners, members can automatically earn and spend miles in three Aldar Malls in Abu Dhabi and Al Ain, at a suite of entertainment, hospitality, F&B partners and now at Abu Dhabi

ETIHAD AIRWAYS COLLABORATES WITH EMIRATI CHEF ON SPECIAL INFLIGHT RAMADAN MENU

In celebration of the Holy Month, Etihad Airways, the national airline of the UAE, has teamed up with Emirati Chef Khaled Alsaadi to offer a specially curated inflight menu for the month of Ramadan. The Abu Dhabi-based Chef has put his signature twist on authentic Emirati recipes, fusing contemporary cooking techniques and local ingredients to recreate popular Ramadan dishes for guests.

Terry Daly, Executive Director of Guest Experience, Brand and Marketing, Etihad Airways, said: "This Ramadan, we wanted to surprise our guests with a special menu that takes a modern approach to traditional, well-loved recipes, to make every iftar onboard Etihad Airways a memorable experience. Our special Ramadan menu in collaboration with Chef Khaled brings our guests the

warmth and flavours of family iftars while showcasing the best of modern Emirati cuisine. The UAE has seen a dramatic rise in the number of talented young chefs who are deconstructing Emirati cuisine and using traditional recipes and ingredients in new ways to create a gastronomic experience that is modern yet deeply inspired by the culinary heritage of the country. more on pg 4



Sticky date pudding



lamb quzi with black pepper chutney

Satcom DirectPlane Simple™ Antenna System takes off as STCs awarded and customer installations begin

First FAA Supplemental Type Certificates confirmed for multiple Gulfstream models First EASA Supplemental Type Certificates approved for specified Bombardier Global aircraft In-service-evaluations under way globally with the Intelsat FlexExec network More Plane Simple units already shipped for in-service evaluation program



The business aviation solutions provider, is celebrating Federal Aviation Association, (FAA) approval of Supplemental Type Certificates, (STCs) for the Satcom Direct Plane Simple™ Ku-band tail-mounted Antenna System. Following a multi-model, (AML) STC approval, Gulfstream G550, G450, GV and GIV type can now be equipped with the advanced technology terminal.

The Satcom Direct Gulfstream G550 is the first aircraft carrying the equipment, demonstrating the power, versatility and simplicity of the Plane Simple advanced antenna technology, which is powered by the Intelsat FlexExec satellite network. The minimally invasive antenna installation, which required the fitting of just two-line replaceable units, the tail-mounted antenna and the SD modem unit, was carried out by Gulfstream at its Appleton, WI facility.

In parallel the European Aviation Safety Agency, (EASA) has released an STC for multiple Bombardier types, covering Global 6000, 5000, Express XRS and Express. SD collaborated with Alamo Engineering GmbH to

generate the first EASA STC for the Global airframes. A privately owned Bombardier Global Express is the first aircraft equipped with the Plane Simple Ku-band terminal outside of the US, with equipment installation completed by ACC Columbia Jet Service at its Hannover, Germany, MRO facility. "This is a monumental day for Satcom Direct demonstrating we have taken our initial concept of a simplified connectivity hardware system, that can be easily installed, maintained and transitioned, and made it a reality," said SD Founder and CEO, Jim Jensen. "We announced we would do it just over two years ago and, we have stuck to our plan as SD Avionics, our expert hardware team, worked with our production partner QEST, to create a whole new class of antenna hardware. It completes our connectivity puzzle adding to our existing software, ground infrastructure and hardware. More importantly it gives our customers greater flexibility, cost effective connectivity options, and a single resource to fulfill each and every connectivity need. It is what they were asking for and we have delivered it, I could not be prouder."

The revolutionary antennas will form part of the in-service more on pg 4



Rolls Royce in 2021, the Sustainability50 programme will see Etihad's A350s used as flying testbeds of new initiatives, procedures and technologies to reduce carbon emissions, building on the learnings derived from Etihad's similar Greenliner programme for the Boeing B787

diplomatic dignitaries, Etihad and Airbus representatives, media, trade partners and other VIPs.

Tony Douglas, Group Chief Executive Officer, commented: "The Airbus A350 is an absolutely incredible aircraft, and we are proud to introduce it into the Etihad Airways network today. Our teams have worked closely together to craft a product and travel proposition that will ensure every journey with Etihad is a choice well made – both for our guests and for the planet. With highly efficient fuel consumption and CO2 savings, the A350 will support our goals to reduce carbon emissions and deliver an unmatched flight experience for our guests.

Mikail Houari, President, Airbus Africa and Middle East, commented: "Etihad Airways has been a long-standing partner of Airbus in the UAE and we are excited to continue our collaboration. The A350-1000 is setting new standards of air travel, offering unrivalled levels of operational efficiency, with a 25 per cent reduction in fuel burn and emissions. This marks the start of a promising new chapter for the UAE's aviation sector, led by innovation and a commitment to sustainability. We look forward to many more years of partnership and working together to support Etihad Airways expand its network through our most technologically advanced and efficient aircraft."

The aircraft, named Sustainability50, carries a unique livery in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the federation of the UAE and Etihad's commitment to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. It will join the airline's industry-leading sustainability drive as part of a programme aimed at decarbonising aviation.

Formed as a partnership between Etihad, Airbus and

aircraft type. The Rolls-Royce Trent XWB-powered Airbus A350 is one of the most efficient aircraft types in the world, with 25% less fuel burn and CO2 emissions than previous-generation twin aisle aircraft. Etihad recently established a formal framework with Airbus to collaborate on sustainability across a number of areas including the promotion and commercialisation of sustainable aviation fuel, waste and weight management, and the development of data-driven analysis. "We designed our sustainability



programme as a vehicle for collaboration, and our strategic partnership with Airbus allows us to harness the sustainability credentials of the A350 through the Sustainability50 programme, as we work towards our joint objectives to reduce aviation's impact on the environment," said Douglas.

The airline's new A350-1000s will be deployed on a number of short to mid-range routes in Q2, including Mumbai and Delhi, before being introduced on ultra-long-haul operations to Chicago and New York from July.

Guest Experience

The aircraft features Etihad's newest cabin interior which is inspired by Abu Dhabi and is both more efficient and sustainable in design. Etihad is renowned for high-quality aircraft, and the A350 is filled with thoughtful design details providing exceptional comfort and enhanced privacy. Etihad's signature lighting design is inspired by the shadows cast by Abu Dhabi's palm trees. The cabin lighting

emulates natural ambient light and is designed to enhance the guest experience, provide an optimum environment for sleeping and reduce the effects of jetlag. The Airbus A350 also offers the quietest cabin experience for a wide-body aircraft.

Another feature to help reduce light pollution, and therefore jetlag, is the new dark-mode interface on the E-BOX inflight entertainment system. Mobile and Wi-Fi connectivity is also available throughout the aircraft. Etihad's 'Little VIP' younger guests will enjoy the newly launched Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi themed family-friendly flying experience and a special feature on this aircraft is the new interactive flight map feature which means children can explore the maps with the help of some Jurassic-age friends.

Business class
The elevated Business class is home to 44 Business Studios with sliding doors that

provide a high level of privacy to each suite. Every seat faces forward with direct aisle access. The Business class seat, with a width of over 20", converts into a fully-flat bed of 79" in length, and features ample storage for convenience.

Noise-cancelling headphones and an 18.5" TV screen provide a cinematic experience to enjoy Etihad's extensive inflight entertainment offering. The Business seats cleverly feature a built-in wireless charging dock and Bluetooth headphone pairing.



from pg 3



Bulgur salad with a date vinaigrette

Guests will be treated to Ramadan meals including lamb quzi with black pepper chutney, bulgur salad with a date vinaigrette, and sticky date pudding. In addition, a selection of Chef Khaled's bespoke recipes will be available online or by scanning QR codes placed at the bottom of the onboard menu, allowing guests to recreate Etihad's unique inflight meals at home. Etihad's Ramadan menu will be available to guests on selected flights that coincide with iftar times. This includes flights to and from the GCC countries and flights catering to Umrah groups travelling to Jeddah and Medina during the month of Ramadan. The Etihad Ramadan experience starts from the lounges at Abu Dhabi International Airport, which has dedicated prayer rooms, and extends to special onboard products and services. Travellers breaking their fast prior to departure or just before landing will be provided with takeaway bags containing dates and adorned with an image inspired by one of UAE's hidden gems. Chef Khaled Alsaddi, said: "Travelling during Ramadan, travellers long for a cosy family iftar meal. I wanted to bring the essence and warmth of the family iftar in each and every bite that will taste like the one prepared by mothers and evokes pleasant memories. It was an absolute pleasure to team up with Etihad and its culinary design team and it allowed me to present modern Emirati dishes to international guests travelling onboard the UAE's national carrier." The airline's inflight entertainment system, E-box, will be updated with a selection of Ramadan content including recordings of the Holy Quran as well as a Mecca Qibla pointer.

from pg 3

evaluation program which delivers additional feedback about system performance, further confirming that together, the high throughput Intelsat FlexExec satellite network, combined with the Plane Simple Ku-band tail-mounted antenna system, simplifies high-speed data access for more business aviation owners globally. Multiple units are currently being delivered by SD Avionics to customers who will join the in-service evaluation program. "Until now high-speed connectivity options were limited by capacity, restrictive plans, invasive installation, and the complexity of transition pathways. With the Plane Simple tail-mounted antenna these needs are resolved in one simple step. We're excited and extremely pleased to have worked with SD and ACC Columbia Jet Service to generate the first European STCs for this impressive new technology," said Alamo Engineering's co-owner and Head of Design and Airworthiness, Jörg Gorkenent. Designed exclusively for business aviation aircraft the Plane Simple terminal and Intelsat FlexExec network deliver consistently reliable high-speed data access for government, corporate and private customers. The initial swathe of STCs, which increases access to the powerful Ku-band offering for international customers, will be followed by further approvals from the FAA, Transport Canada, and EASA for more airframe models by the end of Q2, 2022. The official approvals and customer in-service evaluations represent the penultimate phase before the revolutionary SD Plane Simple Antenna System enters commercial service in Q3 of this year.