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## BRITISH AIRWAYS HOLIDAYS AND UNIVERSAL ORLANDO RESORT PARTNER WITH ITV FOR ANT & DEC'S SATURDAY NIGHT TAKEAWAY

British Airways Holidays and Universal Orlando Resort are confirmed as official holiday prize providers for the 19th series of Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway which launched on ITV1 and ITVX last Saturday 25 February. More than 250 lucky prize winners will win seats on a specially chartered British Airways flight and stay for six nights, right in the middle of the action, at Universal Orlando Resort. All winners will be part of the most spectacular Saturday Night Takeaway finale ever – live from Universal Orlando Resort. With places so limited, even Stephen Mulhern had no option other than to train as British Airways cabin crew to join the charter. Making holidays to Orlando more accessible than ever, British Airways Holidays has put holidays on sale right up to January 2025, with prices for travel next year starting from just £679 per person for a seven night holiday\*. British Airways Holidays and Universal Orlando Resort have teamed up to offer the holiday of a lifetime to Orlando for the 'Place on the Plane' prize winners of Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. The lucky prize winners will secure a seat on an exclusively chartered flight thanks to British Airways Holidays and will stay six nights at the surf themed Universal's Endless Summer Resort - Surfside Inn and Suites in spacious two-



bedroom suites that sleep up to six. Winners will also receive park-to-park access to all three Universal Orlando Resort theme parks; Universal Studios Florida, Universal's Islands of Adventure and Universal's Volcano Bay water theme park. In addition, prize winners will be invited to an exclusive winners' event at Universal's Volcano Bay and tickets to the finale of Saturday Night Takeaway, live from Universal's Islands of Adventure on 8th April, meaning guests will be treated like true VIPs. With places so highly sought after on the flight, even Stephen Mulhern couldn't secure a seat and had to think of creative ways to bag a place on the plane. Mulhern devised a plan to train as one of British Airways' highly skilled cabin crew. He was put through his paces by expert customer service trainers, which was harder than

expected. Stephen Mulhern, presenter, said: "British Airways' cabin crew go through rigorous training to ensure they deliver exceptional service for passengers. It is fair to say I just didn't quite cut it, but it was great to spend a day with the team and learn more about how they keep customers safe while delivering excellent customer service. I'll just have to beg Ant and Dec for a space!" Claire Bentley, British Airways Holidays Managing Director, said: "We are so excited to team up with ITV for Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway with one of our key partners Universal Orlando Resort to offer a truly memorable experience. Orlando is one of the most magical places with something to offer everyone, so to mark this partnership and help families plan ahead, we have now put holidays to Orlando on sale for travel up

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## Air Canada Launches Digital Identification; First Airline to Test Facial Recognition Technology for Identification Verification in Canada

Air Canada announced it has launched digital identification, becoming the first airline in Canada with approval to offer customers the safety and convenience of a new option using facial recognition technology to confirm identification. In a pilot project currently underway, Air Canada's digital identification is now available for customers departing from Vancouver International Airport (YVR) when boarding select flights to Winnipeg, and for eligible customers entering the Air Canada Café at Toronto Pearson International Airport. Air Canada plans to expand digital identification options to select Canadian airports and Maple Leaf Lounges as part of its pilot project phase. "Many of our customers already utilize digital credentials to simplify their daily activities such as unlocking mobile phones, entering workplaces, verifying identification during financial transactions and more. We are very excited to now take a leadership position in Canada and test digital identification using facial recognition technology to validate customer identification quickly, securely and accurately at select airport touchpoints. Participation in digital identification is voluntary. Customers choosing to use digital identification will benefit from a simplified and seamless process at the gate and when entering our Maple Leaf Lounges," said Craig Landry, Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer at Air Canada.

"Our government and Canadian airlines and airports are eager to move forward with innovative solutions and technologies to modernize the traveller journey in airports across the country, which would enable a more seamless and efficient air transportation system. Air Canada's pilot project will speed up processes at YVR, and other airports where it's established, while respecting robust privacy measures and security



standards. This project has great potential in making gate boarding easier and faster for Canadian passengers, while maintaining strong safety measures," said the Honourable Omar Alghabra, Minister of Transport – Government of Canada. Customers eligible to utilize the Air Canada Café in Toronto and customers on select flights from Vancouver to Winnipeg will receive an invitation to use the digital identification option, and instructions on how to create their secure digital faceprint prior to arriving at the airport. Customers who do not wish to utilize digital identification may simply board as they currently do now by presenting their boarding pass and government-issued photo ID for manual ID check and processing. Likewise, customers may elect to continue scanning their boarding cards manually as they do now to enter the Air Canada Café at Toronto Pearson. Digital identification is a single enrollment feature on the Air Canada app. Biometric data is encrypted and stored only on the customer's mobile phone. Customers must provide additional consent for the data to be used day-of travel and will only be retained for up to 36 hours subject to Air Canada's rigorous privacy and security standards. Air Canada's digital identification is strictly an optional, consent-based Air Canada program. It is not related to any government-sponsored program like NEXUS, Global Entry or US CBP Mobile Passport Control (MPC).

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## Bestfly and Krimson Aviation form Joint Venture, BFK Aviation, to support development in emerging markets.

Angolan aircraft operator Bestfly and Addis Ababa-headquartered flight support, charter, and aviation consultancy Krimson Aviation have formed a new Joint Venture, BFK Aviation. The entity brings together two powerhouses of business aviation in Africa with the sole intent of supporting the evolution and growth of the industry in emerging markets around the globe. Bestfly and Krimson Aviation, under the leadership of Nuno Pereira and Dawit Lemma, respectively, have been integral in establishing the foundations of the sector across the vast continent of Africa and now intend to share the accumulated knowledge and experience with stakeholders seeking to optimize its benefits in new and evolving markets. Demonstrating the value of the proposition, the first partnership agreement has already been signed with Xen Aviation, the Georgetown, Guyana-based operator and aviation services provider. BFK Aviation will support the needs of Xen Aviation's expanding flight and ground services for current and future operations. Bestfly, already well versed in supporting the oil and gas industry in Angola, will provide aircraft operational know-how, while Krimson will provide all ground support and maintenance service intelligence. The signing



follows the success of the Guyana Energy Expo, held in Georgetown in February, and highlights the rapid growth of the oil and gas sector in Guyana, and the surrounding region, which is driving increased demand for rotary and fixed-wing operations. Bestfly is Angola's largest business aviation services provider operating a fleet of some thirty aircraft including turboprops, executive jets, regional airliners, and helicopters flying within Angola, Africa and internationally; as well as a commercial operator flying scheduled routes to Cabo Verde. As one of the first African aviation companies to be granted IS-BAO status, Pereira and his team are familiar with the rigour and quality required to meet and exceed international standards and customer expectations. Krimson Aviation has expanded significantly since

launch and provides a range of ground handling, trip support and consultancy services for aviation customers in more than twenty African countries. Bestfly is one of the founding members of the African Business Aviation Association, and Pereira, as a board member, was critical in securing its inauguration and subsequent successful development. Lemma has also been a significant force in the association's development and is VP International and a board member. Their collective experience of shaping the evolution of Africa's business aviation development, mutual extensive global network, and understanding of what it takes to affect a positive change in the perception of business aviation, intra- and inter-continently, positions them well to support commercial,

sustainable transformation in evolving markets. "Undoubtedly, we can enable and enhance credible operations in challenging and dynamic operating environments. We want to harness this very specific knowledge and understanding to support stakeholders in nations that want to maximize the sector's benefits but are still at the early stages of development," says Lemma. Pereira adds, "At Bestfly, we have worked extremely hard to create aircraft operations that are internationally respected, and we are known for our professionalism, excellence and reliability as we have a real understanding of what it takes to service the changing demands of our international oil and gas, mining and agricultural customers." "Working with BFK Aviation will add value to our existing operations, support the development of new standard operating procedures, and we know will raise the bar wherever we work to implement best industry practices," adds Ronaldo Alphonso, Managing Director, Xen Aviation. "We're excited for what the future holds for us, BFK and the business aviation sector in our region." Photo Caption: L to R Nuno Pereira and Morry Davis of Krimson Aviation sign with Ronaldo Alphonso, Xen Aviation.

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to January 2025. Thanks to our low deposit options, customers can secure their holiday from as little as £60 per person, paying in as many desired instalments up to seven weeks before departure." Alison Montague, Vice President & Managing Director, Sales and Marketing, Universal Parks & Resorts, EMEA, commented: "Saturday Night Takeaway brings a fun-filled celebration across TV screens for seven weeks and as we at Universal Orlando Resort are all about fun, we can't wait to bring all our latest attractions, shows, characters and hotels to life for the viewing public... and in partnering with British Airways Holidays, we can offer those at home a chance to win a real money can't buy 'Place on the Plane' for the trip of a lifetime, and secure their seats at the live finale in the heart of our incredible destination. Viewers will have to keep watching to find out more!" British Airways Holidays offers over 80 accommodation options in Orlando, comprising of hotels and villas, including eight Universal Orlando Resort properties. Customers booking with British Airways Holidays have the choice of up to 13 flights a week to the sunshine state. For those travellers looking to explore further afield, customers can book exclusive car hire through British Airways Holidays with Avis or Budget. \*British Airways Holidays offers seven nights, at the 3 Star Universal's Endless Summer Resort - Dockside Inn and Suites or Universal's Endless Summer Resort - Surfside Inn and Suites, from £679pp, travelling on selected dates between 1 January - 31 January 2024 inclusive. Includes economy (World Traveller) return flights from London Gatwick Airport, 23kg luggage allowance and accommodation. Book by 17 April 2023. For reservations visit <https://www.britishairways.com/universal>

## Industry Veterans Thompson and Kroner to Advance NATA Initiatives and Programs

The National Air Transportation Association (NATA) is pleased to announce that Ken Thompson has been promoted to full-time Managing Director of Regulatory Affairs and industry expert Paige Kroner has joined the NATA team as Senior Advisor, Industry Relations. In Thompson's role as Managing Director of Regulatory Affairs, he will lead NATA's efforts to ensure efficient and effective Safety Management System (SMS) implementation across the industry, address security concerns as new technology emerges, support workforce recruitment efforts, and educate the industry on efforts to combat illegal charter activities, among other priorities. Thompson previously served as NATA's Senior Advisor, Regulatory Affairs (Maintenance), where

he acted as staff liaison for NATA's Aircraft Maintenance and Systems Technology (AMST) Committee and as a recognized observer on the Part 145 Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ARAC) Working Group. He is a certificated Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic and has served as an Aircraft Mechanic/Inspector (A&P/IA), Quality Control Inspector, Quality Assurance Manager, Chief Inspector, Designated Manufacturing Inspection Representative (DMIR), and Senior Manager in manufacturing and maintenance facilities. "Ken's more than 49 years of aviation experience, including nearly three decades as an FAA Aviation Safety Inspector, are invaluable to NATA's efforts to find solutions, address challenges, and leverage opportunities

related to aviation safety, security, operational efficiencies, and workforce acquisition and development," stated NATA President and CEO Curt Castagna. Paige Kroner will assist the NATA team with industry outreach, event execution, and member relations. Kroner has worked for noted aviation companies Piedmont-Hawthorne Aviation, Chantilly Air, and Signature Flight Support, as well as trade associations American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) and National Business Aviation Association (NBAA). As NBAA's Central Eastern Regional Representative, she oversaw outreach to the business aviation community and grassroots programs in her nine-state territory to ensure the safety, efficiency, and acceptance of business

aviation. Kroner has also served as FBO Duty Manager at Washington Dulles International Airport. "Paige's extensive experience with business aviation public policy initiatives, airports, transportation programs, and community education projects as well as her broad industry network will greatly enhance the NATA team's work to expand our event portfolio, implement new industry technologies, engage new business aviation workforce entrants, and grow our membership," added Castagna. "With the addition of Ken and Paige, the NATA team is poised to advance the Association and its members on all fronts as we move toward FAA Reauthorization and a new era in aviation."

## Air Canada Proudly Salutes its Black Employees, Wraps Black History Month with Celebration Flight

Air Canada wrapped Black History Month today with its second annual Black History celebratory flight. Flight AC660 from Montreal to Halifax was planned, supported and operated by Black pilots, flight attendants, managers and employees on the ground and behind the scenes at Montreal Trudeau International Airport and on arrival at Halifax Stanfield International Airport. "Air Canada salutes its Black employees who have proudly championed their identity and pride to showcase their achievements and contributions to aviation. This is the second year in a row we have applauded Black excellence with a celebration flight and we are thrilled to highlight our employees' professional achievements. They are incredible ambassadors and role models for the next generation of Black youth," said Arielle Meloul-Wechsler, Executive Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer and Public Affairs at Air Canada. On today's flight are some Air Canada employees and special guests who will visit Africville to learn more about the rich Black cultural heritage, and the long and deep Black history roots in the Halifax area. Comments from airline professionals involved in Air Canada's Black Celebration Flight: "Being asked to help lead and organize this second Black Excellence Flight for Air Canada is an honour that I cannot express in words. I am proud of the example we are setting and showing as a Black community and as an Air Canada family. We are highlighting to aspiring young Black kids that there are people in the aviation industry that look like them and that they, too, can be a part of this incredible industry. We are demonstrating to them that Air



Canada celebrates Black History and that 'You are Black History'," said Andrew Free, Manager, STOC Oversight for Montreal and Quebec City. "To me, being a Black aviation professional means having the responsibility to mentor the next generation of young aviators. I am extremely fortunate today because of the efforts of the few Black pilots that came before me. I appreciate and thank all the many hard-working professionals who have contributed to the success of the day," said William Batson, Manager, Line Operations, Flight Operations in Toronto, and Captain of flight AC660. "Throughout the years, I have had the opportunity to work on many amazing projects within Air Canada, which always been ahead of the trends. I have never felt that my skin colour slowed me down at the airline. Some of my best memories are when I meet little Black kids and I see how their eyes light up when they realize that not only am I working on their flight, I am the one in-charge," said Mendoza Jolly, Service Director, Air Canada. "My love for aviation started when I was young, with my brother bringing me to the airport to see airplanes, so working at Air Canada was a natural transition for me. Now as a lead station attendant and Health and Safety coordinator, I am proud to be part of a

company that recognizes and celebrates my heritage," Keyon Burke, Health and Safety Coordinator. "My aviation career feels like a family tradition as I followed the footsteps of my late father, who joined TransCanada Airlines in 1957. As a Black woman and an ambassador for the Air Canada brand, it is wonderful to see Air Canada providing leadership on a project as important as Black History Month," said Sharyn Prevost, Air Canada Customer Experience Specialist, Halifax. Hear more about what Air Canada's Black employees have to say about the importance of being seen, and about race and adversity in these three short videos. Air Canada has been named one of Canada's best Diversity Employers for multiple consecutive years. Its Corporate Sustainability Report (CSR) details the airline's diversity and community initiatives. In its internal voluntary surveys, 684 Air Canada employees self-identified as Black, and work in senior management, leadership, specialized professional positions, and across all work groups including pilots, flight attendants, customer service agents, maintenance technicians and ground support crews.

## KinectAir Will Initially Operate Electra's eSTOL Aircraft On Its Pacific Northwest Network

KinectAir, the operating system for booking private charter and advanced air mobility flights, has partnered with Electra.aero, Inc. ("Electra"), a next-gen aerospace company, to meet the growing demand for convenient, safe, and affordable flight services in the underserved regional travel market. The combination of Electra's quiet and cost-efficient electric short takeoff and landing (eSTOL) aircraft operated on KinectAir's software-defined network unlocks the promise of regional air mobility by lowering the cost of point-to-point air travel while exploiting the vastly underutilized existing infrastructure of 5,200 federally funded regional airports.

KinectAir is amassing proprietary data from flight itineraries that evidence strong appetite for regional air mobility under 500 miles. "KinectAir makes booking private air travel easier and more affordable through our smartphone app with AI-backed route dispatch and demand generation capabilities, thereby reducing empty legs and lowering prices. Out of over 40,000 itineraries entered into our software, 83 percent of customers want to bypass the largest 30 airport hubs in order to use only point-to-point airport pairs," said KinectAir Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jonathan Evans. "We are presenting today what the future advanced air mobility market will look like, with the four- and eight-seat aircraft in our app. We have found that our customers book an average flight distance of 215 miles, so we know from our software data that the sweet spot for regional air mobility is between 100 and 300 miles," added Evans. "Electra's eSTOL will bring an even more affordable aircraft into the hands of our customers with the range needed to fly profitable city pairs. Once Electra enters service, KinectAir's software

will likely be serving per seat on-demand bookings that will open up regional air mobility en masse in the same way ridesharing did for black car services."

A new NASA-funded study by Georgia Tech's School of Aerospace Engineering also highlights the potential for regional air mobility in fixed-wing electric aircraft to improve on the Hub and Spoke system. The study found passengers would fly distances over 100 miles ahead of other modes of travel



given the option to fly to and from convenient local airports. The present-day commercial model only uses

500 airports – or one in ten of those available. All told, the study identified over 4,200 Origin-destination markets connecting 980 airports nationwide with a minimum frequency of two flights per day - an order of magnitude greater than today's market. The Electra eSTOL aircraft's lower operating costs, crucially important longer range, and higher nine-passenger payload, combined with the ability to operate from spaces as small as a soccer field, enables KinectAir to offer customers a significantly more affordable, accessible, and climate-friendly flight package. Under the partnership, KinectAir will use the Electra eSTOL aircraft to serve the point-to-point regional market in the Pacific Northwest, with further expansion in both the United States and Europe later. "Electra's hybrid-electric eSTOL aircraft provides a better way of moving people and cargo on regional routes – faster and cleaner than alternative means of travel. Convenient access to a regional air mobility network for passengers is crucial to scaling the service," said Marc Ausman, Electra's Chief Product Officer. "KinectAir provides that missing link, and we will work closely with the KinectAir team to integrate Electra's eSTOL into their extended regional air mobility network."

## National Association of Flight Instructors Plans Educational Sessions at SUN 'n FUN

Accepting Advance Reservations for Fall Summit  
Hundreds of members and guests of the National Association of Flight Instructors (NAFI) are planning to visit the association's activities here March 28 to April 2 at Lakeland Linder International Airport for the SUN 'n FUN Aerospace Expo, Florida's largest convention.

NAFI's formidable presence will highlight its planned flight instruction safety and business summit scheduled from Oct. 24 to 26. NAFI's inaugural summit in the fall will also be held on the SUN 'n FUN campus. Attendees at the SUN 'n FUN this month can also register for the fall summit online below and also at NAFI's booth at the fly-in and airshow. NAFI's exhibit will be in Hangar A, Booth 077.

It will be staffed by NAFI volunteer board members, including Chair Karen Kalishek, Secretary JD Debosky, Chair Emeritus Robert Meder and Board Member Victor Vogel. They will be in Lakeland throughout the event to showcase NAFI's programs, benefits, and networking opportunities. In addition, existing members and new members can renew or join NAFI at a discounted rate during the show.

Board members Vogel and Kalishek will be making special presentations during the SUN 'n FUN airshow and fly-in. "When are you too old to fly?" by Vogel is scheduled:  
· Wednesday, March 29 at 11 a.m. in the Central Florida Aerospace Academy (CFAA) Room 13  
· Thursday, March 30 at 10 a.m., CFAA Rm 13  
· Friday, March 31 at 10 a.m., CFAA Rm 09  
Habit Forming: Safety Tips for Every Flight by Kalishek is scheduled:



Victor Vogel is a board-certified medical oncologist who was a medical school professor for 25 years. He has been flying for more than 40 years and is a CFI/CFII. Two years ago, he founded a public charity named Susquehanna STEM to the Skies that seeks to bring aviation-based STEM education to the high schools and career technical centers in the Susquehanna Valley of south-central Pennsylvania. He is also interested in the physiological challenges faced by older pilots who seek to remain safe.



Karen Kalishek is a Designated Pilot Examiner, three-time NAFI Master Instructor, CFI, CFII, MEI, CFI-G, AGI, IGI, FAA Gold Seal Instructor and FAASummit Lead Representative. She holds an ATP certificate and has ASES and Glider Commercial privileges. She received the National FAASummit Representative of the Year award in 2019. She is also a major in the Civil Air Patrol, serving as a CAP volunteer flight instructor, check pilot, examiner, mission pilot and cadet orientation pilot.

Register for NAFI Summit, Early Bird Rates Register at NAFI Summit 2023 | Become a Better CFI for NAFI Summit: Flight Instruction Excellence, to be held October 24-26 at the SUN 'n FUN Museum at Lakeland Linder International Airport (KLAL), Florida. The summit will host current and prospective certificated flight instructors, leaders in aviation, industry advocates, government representatives, and media. Early bird rates are in effect until July 1: \$250 for NAFI members, \$310 for non-members. NAFI and SAFE Master Instructor rates are \$199.

## MANCHESTER CITY PLAYERS AND ETIHAD AIRWAYS MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE FOR YOUNG FEMALE PLAYERS

Ahead of International Women's Day, Etihad uses the strength of its partnership with MCFC to champion inclusivity Manchester City Women's players Chloe Kelly, Lauren Hemp and Hayley Raso surprise four grassroots players based in the United Arab Emirates with a trip of a lifetime to Manchester, thanks to Etihad Airways

The sky is the limit for four aspiring female footballers from the United Arab Emirates after an invitation from Manchester City Women turned into the trip of a lifetime thanks to Etihad Airways, the UAE's national carrier.

For girls, Madiyah, 12, Meriel and Sura, both 11, and Zarah, 9, who all attend the City Football Schools in the UAE, mid-week coaching in Abu Dhabi typically ends with a tactical de-brief.

But in a new heart-warming video released to celebrate

International Women's Day, the girls were thrilled to receive a personal

message from England Lionesses, Chloe Kelly and Lauren Hemp, and Australia's Hayley Raso, in which they were invited to join them as Manchester City matchday mascots for the Women's Super League fixture against Arsenal at the Academy Stadium on the Etihad Campus in Manchester.

Unknown to the girls, Etihad Airways had booked the players, their parents and coaches onto an eight-hour flight that evening from Abu Dhabi International Airport to Manchester.

As part of the experience, the young female players enjoyed behind-the-scenes access to Manchester City Women's final training session before the match and were lucky enough to have photos and signatures with some of their role models from the club.

Georgia Bainbridge, City Football Schools Coach, said,

"When we were told about the surprise and asked to put forward four girls, Madiyah, Meriel, Sura and Zarah immediately sprung to mind. They have demonstrated fantastic skills and potential, but their attitude to training is outstanding and something all the coaches at City Football Schools in the UAE really admire.

"We want to continue to inspire our female players and promote women's football as much as we can in the UAE which has been helped massively following the Women's Euros and Chloe Kelly's winning goal. She's a player the girls admire and hope one day to emulate so having the chance to watch her and the rest of the team train before meeting them was incredible."

Before leading out the team as match day mascots in front of a sell-out crowd, the girls also toured the Etihad Stadium



along with the home dressing room, where screams could be heard around Manchester

as their personalised matchday shirts took pride of place.

Amina Taher, Vice President Brand, Marketing and Sponsorships from Etihad Airways, said: "The UAE places a strong emphasis on elevating the role of women in society and as the national airline we are fully engaged with this mission. We're proud to work with our long-standing partners City Football Group to champion the inclusion and empowerment of young women ahead of this year's International Women's Day. "It was an honour to fly Madiyah, Meriel, Sura and Zarah to Manchester to visit the Etihad Stadium and meet their Manchester City heroes." To watch the full video visit, <https://youtu.be/p7Oz9Ch2vL0>