



AIR CANADA

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Air Canada and TAP Portugal partner to create better connections between Canada and Portugal

Codeshare agreement links countries through convenient hubs

MONTREAL, April 15 /CNW Telbec/ - Air Canada and fellow Star Alliance partner TAP Portugal announced today they have entered a codeshare agreement that will create more travel options and better connections for customers travelling between Canada and Portugal.

Under the agreement TAP and Air Canada have begun offering code-share flights between Canada and Portugal via selected points. Services between Canadian cities such as Toronto, Montreal, Calgary, Ottawa, and the Portuguese cities of Lisbon and Porto, have been added to both carriers' networks. This provides significant benefits to both Air Canada and TAP customers, including simplified booking, reciprocal travel reward accumulation, seamless connections on a single ticket, and baggage check-through to final destination.

"By working more closely and developing our relationship with our Star partner TAP Portugal, the leading airline in Portugal, Air Canada will be able to offer customers improved access between Canada and Portugal and broaden its already extensive network to Europe and beyond," said Marcel Forget, Vice President of Network Planning at Air Canada.

"Implementing this code-share agreement with Air Canada, one of the founding members of Star Alliance, is an important step towards developing closer commercial ties with one of the leading and most innovative airlines in the World," said José Guedes Dias, VP Alliances & External Relations, TAP Portugal. "At the same time we can offer our customers a wide range of direct and more convenient services between Portugal and Canada that we expect will particularly benefit the large Portuguese Community in Canada and the business and tourism segments in general."

The agreement provides for TAP to place its code, TP, on Air Canada flights between Canadian cities and international gateways, such as: Newark (USA), London (UK) or Madrid (Spain). It also allows Air Canada to place its flight code, AC, on flights operated by TAP Portugal between Lisbon or Porto and the above-mentioned gateways. Both carriers will thus offer services between Portugal and Canada, via selected connecting points, each one using its own code throughout the entire itinerary.

About Air Canada:

Montréal-based Air Canada provides scheduled and charter air transportation for passengers and cargo to more than 170 destinations on five continents. Canada's flag carrier is the 14th largest commercial airline in the world and serves 33 million customers annually. Air Canada is a founding member of Star Alliance, providing the world's most comprehensive air transportation network for Canadian domestic, transborder and international travel. Air Canada aircraft offer customers individualized seatback in-flight entertainment systems with hundreds of hours of digital audio-visual entertainment. As well, customers can collect Aeroplan miles for future awards through Canada's leading loyalty program. In 2008, the readers of Business Traveler magazine voted Air Canada "Best In-Flight Services in North America," "Best Airline for Business Class Service in North America" and "Best North American Airline for International Travel."

About TAP Portugal:

TAP Portugal is the leading Portuguese airline, member of Star Alliance since March 14, 2005. Its hub in Lisbon is a key European gateway at the crossroads of Africa, North & South America, where TAP stands out as the leading European carrier in operation to Brazil. The company's network comprises 59 destinations in 26 countries worldwide. TAP currently operates over 1,850 weekly flights in average on a modern fleet of 53 Airbus aircraft, to which add 16 more aircraft operating in PGA, the European regional carrier acquired by TAP in 2007. Pursuing its customer focused orientation, TAP continuously strives to deliver safe, reliable and upgraded product & services tailored to meet customers' expectations. Retaining the Portuguese character of the Company's brand and quality service as the basic concept has been the main driver of TAP strategy in most recent years.

About Star Alliance:

The Star Alliance network was established in 1997 as the first truly global airline alliance to offer customers worldwide reach and a smooth travel experience. Star Alliance received the Air Transport World Market Leadership Award in 2008 and was voted Best Airline Alliance by Business Traveller Magazine in 2003, 2006, 2007 and 2008 and by Skytrax in 2003, 2005 and 2007. The members are Air Canada, Air China, Air New Zealand, ANA, Asiana Airlines, Austrian Airlines, bmi, EgyptAir, LOT Polish Airlines, Lufthansa, Scandinavian Airlines, Shanghai Airlines, Singapore Airlines, South African Airways, Spanair, SWISS, TAP Portugal, Turkish Airlines, THAI, United Airlines and US Airways. Regional member carriers Adria Airways (Slovenia), Blue1 (Finland) and Croatia Airlines enhance the global network. Air India, Brussels Airlines,

Continental Airlines and TAM have been announced as future members. Overall, the Star Alliance network offers more than 16,500 daily flights to 912 destinations in 159 countries.

For further information:

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