

What's Up

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Industry

Four major airlines, Continental, Delta, Northwest, and United, announced that they will offer the first multi-airline Web site next year. Hoping to launch the site in the first half of 2000, the carriers said it will offer real-time arrival and departure information for the participants and will also publish airfares, while allowing travelers to purchase airline, hotel, and car rental services. "For the first time, online travel consumers will be able to compare and purchase the Internet fares offered by several airlines and travel providers by visiting just one site," said Bruce Parker, United Airlines' chief information officer.

(Reuters, Nov. 9)

Indigo, a Chicago-based company, will revolutionize business air travel with the introduction of its new service, the scheduled corporate jet. Early next year, Indigo will fly corporate jets weekdays between Chicago and New York, using the general aviation facilities at Midway Airport and Teterboro Airport in northern New Jersey. The public will be able to purchase individual seats at a price comparable to full-fare coach tickets. Matthew G. Andersson, chairman and chief executive officer of Indigo, said that the initial flight and schedule information of the Dassault Falcon 20 will be announced within a month.

(Business Wire, Nov. 3)

Air Traffic Control

Gordon Bethune, chairman and chief executive officer of Continental Airlines, asked for the immediate reformation of the deteriorating Air Traffic Control (ATC) system. In remarks to the Global Summit on International Aviation Infrastructure in Washington, D.C., he suggested that the government consider privatization as a solution. "Our nation's air traffic controllers are the glue that holds our aging and under-funded system together ... [and] they do a wonderful job, especially considering what they have to work with. ...I believe that we can, in partnership with the government, create an independent ATC system that will keep pace with the growth of our population and increase in aviation because it's no longer held hostage to the federal budget process."

(PRNewswire, Nov. 3)

United Airlines President Rono Dutta told the Global Summit that a special Task Force should be formed and charged with recommending basic reform of the FAA in order to improve the operation of the nation's air traffic system. "We need to find solutions and we need to find them fast," Dutta said. "The current structure is not designed to address the fundamental problems that are out there including funding, modernization, and organization."

(PRNewswire, Nov. 1)

Air Canada

Onex Corp. withdrew its bid to take control of Air Canada after a provincial court ruled the proposal was illegal. The outcome left Air Canada triumphant in its battle against the hostile takeover attempt by Onex, which had planned to merge the carrier with its rival, Canadian Airlines, to create one national carrier with links to the Oneworld alliance headed by American Airlines.

(Associated Press, Nov. 5)

Air Canada inaugurated daily nonstop service between Washington Dulles and Halifax, Nova Scotia. The new service, which is also offered on as a codeshare with Star Alliance partner United Airlines, is operated in the 50-seat Canadair Regional Jet aircraft.

(PRNewswire, Oct. 18)

AirTran

As a result of the introduction of its new B-717 fleet and the corresponding acceleration in the retirement of its DC-9s, the airline will take a pre-tax fleet disposition charge of about \$140 to \$150 million during the fourth quarter. AirTran currently operates four B-717s, and plans to introduce an additional four in the fourth quarter and 42 more between 2000 and 2002.

(Business Wire, Nov. 5)

Alaska

The carrier announced a comprehensive marketing relationship with Lan Chile that will give its customers convenient access to South America. Effective November 3, the pact provides for reciprocal participation in each other's frequent flyer programs and a one-way codesharing agreement. Lan Chile, the largest domestic and international passenger/cargo airline in Chile and the leading carrier in Latin America, currently offers ten weekly flights to Los Angeles from Santiago, Chile and/or Lima, Peru.

(Business Wire, Nov. 2)

America West

The airline and the City of Phoenix celebrated the opening of a new \$54 million concourse in Terminal 4 at the Sky Harbor International Airport. Located next to America West's two other concourses, the new area will provide the carrier with 12 new gates, with two more planned for 2001.

(PRNewswire, Nov. 1)

America West announced an agreement on firm orders for 15 Airbus A318-100 and 12 A320-200 aircraft. Under the arrangement, America West also received options on 50 more aircraft in the "A320 family" (A318s, A319s, A320s, and A321s). Deliveries, slated for completion in 2004, will begin for the A320 next August and for the A318 in 2003.

(PRNewswire, Oct. 21)

American

The airline officially began construction on its new \$1.3 billion, 56-gate terminal at New York's JFK International Airport. When completed in 2006, the facility will be the largest and most advanced terminal at the airport. The building will feature three concourses extending from a central terminal area and a fourth concourse connected to the terminal by a 320-foot underground tunnel with moving walkways.

(PRNewswire, Nov. 9)

American Eagle

The regional affiliate for American will introduce its first regional jet service in Boston on January 23 when it replaces four of its 14 daily turboprop flights to Philadelphia with its new 37-seat ERJ-135 jets. On the same day, the carrier will begin regional jet service between Boston and Columbus, Ohio with three daily roundtrips in the same aircraft.

(PRNewswire, Oct. 28)

American Eagle launched new nonstop service between Huntsville, Ala. and Chicago- O'Hare with Embraer regional jets. The two roundtrips are in addition to four daily nonstops between Huntsville and Dallas/Fort Worth.

(PRNewswire, Oct. 28)

The airline will introduce regional jet service from Chicago-O'Hare to Lansing, Mich. and Toledo, Ohio, while service to Green Bay and LaCrosse, Wis. will become all-jet. "American Eagle's regional jet service continues to be well received by our customers," said Tom Bacon, senior vice president of marketing and planning for American Eagle. "We're pleased to be able to extend this popular service from Chicago to even more cities."

(PRNewswire, Oct. 25)

Beginning December 2, the regional carrier will offer two daily roundtrips on Saturdays and Sundays from Chicago-O'Hare to Sarasota/Bradenton, Fla. The new seasonal winter service will be offered in the new 37-seat ERJ-135 regional jet.

(PRNewswire, Oct. 25)

American Trans Air

Flight attendants are holding a rally at San Francisco Airport on November 9 to highlight their fight for better pay. "We've helped make this a successful airline," said Steven Simmons, president of the Association of Flight Attendants' Council 37. "We want our fair share." ATA, the nation's largest charter airline, pays new-hires \$14,283, and tops out for a twelve-year veteran at \$25,920. Flight attendants also want to receive pay for time at work when not flying.

(PRNewswire, Nov. 9)

Atlantic Southeast

The wholly-owned subsidiary of Delta plans to offer six new daily nonstops between Atlanta and Huntington, W. Va. Scheduled to begin March 2, the service will be flown in 30-passenger Embraer Brasilia turboprop aircraft.

(PRNewswire, Nov. 2)

ASA will offer four daily flights between Atlanta and Manchester, N.H., next year. The new nonstop jet service will begin on January 3 with Canadair Regional Jet aircraft.

(PRNewswire, Oct. 21)

Atlas Air

The cargo carrier has signed a deal with Malaysian Airlines (MAS Kargo) for four aircraft, a B-747-400F and three B-747-200Fs, that includes the provision by Atlas of the aircraft, crew, maintenance, and insurance. Stan Wraight, Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing, said, "For Atlas, this contract adds a very prestigious carrier to our customer portfolio. MAS is one of the world's largest cargo operators, and this significant contract greatly increases our presence in the growing Asian freight market."

(Business Wire, Nov. 8)

Continental

Continental Express announced new nonstop service from Houston to Mazatlan, Mexico, subject to government approval. The carrier will use the 50-seat Embraer ERJ-145 regional jet on the one daily roundtrip slated to begin February 10.

(PRNewswire, Nov. 8)

Continental said it will soon begin equipping its entire fleet of 361 jets with automatic external defibrillators (AED) and training its in-flight crews in the use of these devices. The portable device, about the size of a laptop computer, delivers an electric shock to restore a normal heartbeat. Captain Deborah McCoy, senior vice president of flight operations, said, "We believe defibrillators will be valuable tools to have on board. ...This is a worthwhile investment that could potentially save lives."

(PRNewswire, Nov. 5)

Delta

The carrier will start daily, nonstop service between New York-JFK and Lyon, France on April 14. Delta's global alliance partner Air France will codeshare on the new service. Mark A. P. Drusch, Delta's senior vice president - network management, said, "Lyon is a significant economic, political and commercial center and is rapidly expanding its economic ties to the United States. ...This is the first in a series of new international and domestic service enhancements for New York which Delta will announce over the next several months."

(PRNewswire, Nov. 8)

Beginning December 1, Delta will offer codeshare service from Paris to Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, and Abidjan, Ivory Coast, on Air France's Airbus aircraft. This is part of Delta's effort with global alliance partner Air France and South African Airways to pursue new opportunities to Africa.

(PRNewswire, Nov. 2)

Delta will file an application with the DOT to seek authority to operate between the United States and the People's Republic of China. The carrier wants to fly a daily nonstop between New York and Beijing, with continuing service to Shanghai, and to operate thrice-weekly flights from Portland, Oregon, to Beijing, also with continuing service to Shanghai. Delta also proposes that the New York-Beijing service will originate and terminate in Atlanta.

(PRNewswire, Nov. 1)

The airline announced a definitive agreement to acquire COMAIR Holdings, Inc., parent of the regional carrier, for about \$1.8 billion, or \$23.50 a common share. Leo F. Mullin, Delta president and chief executive officer, said, "This transaction is a unique and exciting growth opportunity for Delta and COMAIR, ...[which] has tremendous value to our system as we build for the future."

(PRNewswire, Oct. 18)

Delta said that it had ended its Atlantic Excellence Alliance pact with Austrian Airlines, Sabena, and Swissair in order to focus on a new arrangement with Air France and AeroMexico. Fred Reid, executive vice president and chief marketing officer, said, "Delta customers and shareholders will continue to have the benefit of a world-class alliance ...[which] has a huge potential to expand our cooperative service beyond that which we offer today through either alliance. We will move swiftly to expand the alliance and recruit new quality members."

(PRNewswire, Oct. 13)

Federal Express

The world's largest express transportation company began international service from Shenzhen, China's largest export city. FedEx will operate five flights a week using MD-11 and DC-10 aircraft.

(Business Wire, Nov. 2)

Frontier

The airline has signed a Letter of Intent to lease 15 new Airbus aircraft from GE Capital Aviation Services. The deal complements last month's purchase order with Airbus Industrie, and will eventually leave Frontier with a fleet comprised of A319s and A318s.

(PRNewswire, Nov. 4)

Hawaiian

The carrier announced that Robert W. Zoller, Jr. will become Executive Vice President - Operations and Services on December 1. In this newly created position, the former AirTran Airways executive will succeed Michael Schwab, who has served as interim head of operations since April.

(Business Wire, Nov. 9)

JetBlue Airways

The most heavily-capitalized start-up in the country said that its first two destinations in January from New York-JFK will be Buffalo and Fort Lauderdale, pending government approval. By the end of its first year of service, JetBlue plans to service 11 cities with ten airplanes.

(Business Wire, Oct. 14)

LanPeru

The newest member of the LAN network of airlines will offer daily service between Miami and Lima, Peru, beginning November 19. LanChile Airlines, which serves as the general sales agent and representative of LanPeru in the U.S., will operate the flights in B-767-300 aircraft.

(Business Wire, Nov. 9)

Lufthansa

The German flagship carrier will buy a 20 percent stake in British Midland PLC, a medium-sized airline which flies to 31 European destinations. Lufthansa will acquire the stake from Scandinavian Airline Systems, which is reducing its investment in British Midland to 20 percent from 40 percent. British Midland also confirmed that it will join the Star Alliance, a nine-member code-sharing alliance that includes Air Canada, Lufthansa, SAS, Singapore Airlines, Thai Airways, and United Airlines.

(Associated Press, Nov. 9)

Mesa Air

The airline has resolved disputes with Bombardier, the manufacturer of two of the aircraft in its fleet, the 50-seat Canadair Regional Jet and the 37-seat deHavilland Dash 8 turboprop. Mesa will receive a \$9 million settlement, with an immediate cash payment of \$4 million, and additional payments over eight months.

(PRNewswire, Nov. 9)

Mesaba

The carrier, operating as a Northwest Airlinck affiliate, named John J. Spanjers to the newly created position of Vice President, Operations Support. Spanjers, who has served as Director - Performance Engineering at Northwest and Manager of Operations Control at Sun Country Airlines, will assume his duties on November 29.

(PRNewswire, Nov. 4)



Midway

The airline has received a proposal from two of its shareholders, James H. Goodnight and John P. Sall, to merge it with a corporation owned by the two men. Goodnight and Sall own just over 47 percent of the common stock.

(PRNewswire, Nov. 8)

Midway began nonstop jet service between Raleigh-Durham and Louisville with three daily roundtrips. The airline is using its newest Canadair Regional Jets for the flights.

(PRNewswire, Oct. 15)

Midwest Express

The airline announced plans to offer nonstop service between Kansas City and Washington-Dulles, beginning February 7. Midwest Express will offer two nonstops in each direction, in addition to the current four direct (one-stop) flights it currently offers.

(PRNewswire, Nov. 3)

National

On January 27 the airline will begin new service between Las Vegas and Miami with two daily nonstop roundtrips. This marks the eighth city served by National Airlines since its debut on May 27.

(Business Wire, Nov. 1)

On December 22 the airline will increase service from Las Vegas to Chicago-Midway, Dallas/Ft. Worth, and San Francisco. National will add two flights to San Francisco to bring the total to five each day, and one each to Chicago and DFW to increase those frequencies to three daily.

(Business Wire, Oct. 29)

Northwest

The carrier will add one more weekly flight on December 1 between Detroit and Nagoya, Japan, the region of Japan where Honda, Toyota, and Yamaha have large plants and where there are numerous auto parts suppliers.

(Associated Press, Nov. 8)

Northwest will begin daily nonstop service between Memphis and Phoenix on January 31. The airline will also offer daily seasonal service to Fort Myers, Fla., from Memphis through March 30.

(PRNewswire, Nov. 4)

Northwest plans to increase service to Mexico from Detroit on January 31, offering twice daily nonstops to Mexico City and new daily seasonal service to Cancun until April 1. The carrier will also offer Saturday-only nonstop service to Bozeman, Mont., from February 12 to April 1.

(PRNewswire, Nov. 3)

The carrier filed an application with the DOT for five of the ten frequencies between the U.S. and China which will be available April 1, 2001. Northwest wants to use two of them for all-cargo service and the other three for combination service between Detroit and Shanghai and Beijing.

(PRNewswire, Nov. 2)

PanAm

The carrier will begin scheduled passenger service from Gary/Chicago Airport to Sanford/Orlando and Portsmouth, N.H. beginning November 19. Pan Am's operation at Gary/Chicago will be the first passenger service at the Gary facility, which has a Compact Agreement with Chicago to help address congestion at O'Hare, and will receive \$2 million for terminal renovation, emergency and snow removal equipment, and other airfield improvements.

(Business Wire, Oct. 19)

Sabena

Sabena Belgian World Airlines will begin nonstop service between Washington-Dulles and Brussels National Airport on October 31. Flights will operate daily except Mondays and Wednesdays, and plans call for the frequency to increase next summer. Sabena will fly the new route with Airbus A330 aircraft, seating 54 in Business Class and 187 in Economy Class.

(PRNewswire, Oct.29)

TACA-PERU

The new Grupo TACA-backed airline in Peru has joined the LatinPass frequent flyer program for Latin America, raising to ten the number of Latin American carriers, along with KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, TWA, US Airways, and a number of hotel and automobile rental companies serving the world. TACA-PERU began flying from Lima to Iquitos and Cuzco (gateway to the Inca ruins at Macchu Piccu) in early October. International service linking Lima with Buenos Aires, Sao Paulo, and Miami started November 1.

(Business Wire, Nov. 8)

TransStates

The Executive Council of the Air Line Pilots Association, International awarded \$1 million from the union's Major Contingency Fund to support strategic planning and communications programs for the pilots of Trans States Airlines, a carrier that feeds six major airlines across the country. After formally opening negotiations in July, 1998, the pilots have been in mediated talks for nearly one year as they seek industry standards in work rules, scheduling, wages, and benefits.

(PRNewswire, Nov. 4)

TWA

The airline will launch regional jet operations by next summer after coming to a ten-year agreement with marketing partner Chautauqua Airlines. The pact has Chautauqua operating at least 15 of the 50-seat Embraer 145 regional jets, with an option for an additional 15 planes.

(PRNewswire, Nov. 3)

United

The carrier said it will launch daily nonstop service between San Francisco and Beijing next June and between Chicago-O'Hare and Shanghai in April, 2001. In its filing with the DOT, United also requested two additional frequencies for flights between San Francisco and Shanghai, to go along with its previously announced service of five weekly flights between the two points, set to begin next April.

(PRNewswire, Nov. 3)



Five years of United Shuttle service was marked by the introduction of 20 new daily nonstops from Los Angeles. October 31 saw the addition of new nonstop B-737 service to Santa Barbara, Medford, Reno, Palm Springs, and San Diego.

(PRNewswire, Oct. 29)

United will begin service to the U.S. Virgin Islands with flights on Saturdays and Sundays from Chicago-O'Hare and Washington-Dulles, beginning October 31. Using Boeing 757s, the flights to St. Thomas will be nonstop, and the return flight to Chicago will stop in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

(PRNewswire, Oct. 29)

United Express

Atlantic Coast Airlines, the United Express carrier based at Washington-Dulles, begins regional jet service from Mobile, Ala. to both Chicago-O'Hare and Washington-Dulles on October 19. Using the 50-seat Canadair Regional Jet, ACA will fly two daily roundtrips to Chicago and one to Washington.

(PRNewswire, Oct. 19)

Vanguard

The airline announced that it will give away \$20 million worth of airline tickets and discounts during the next two months in Atlanta, Buffalo, Chicago, Cincinnati, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Kansas City, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Myrtle Beach, and Pittsburgh. Using promotions run by third party media outlets, Vanguard will distribute over a million scratch cards offering free roundtrip tickets to anywhere in Vanguard's system, except Denver, or \$10 discounts off the next flight on Vanguard.

(PRNewswire, Nov. 9)

Vanguard will once again offer seasonal service to Myrtle Beach from February through October next year. There will be three weekly nonstop roundtrips from both Cincinnati and Pittsburgh, and one weekly nonstop roundtrip from Buffalo.

(PRNewswire, Oct. 18)

Virgin Atlantic

Virgin Atlantic Airways inaugurates its daily nonstop service between Chicago-O'Hare and London Heathrow on November 1. Chairman Richard Branson said that Chicago "...is our ninth U.S. gateway and 17th destination worldwide." The route will be flown with the wide-bodied Airbus A340 aircraft, offering Upper Class, Premium Economy, and Economy cabins.

(PRNewswire, Nov. 1)