

Business Travel Update

February 2008

A Business Travel Update provided by Professional Travel

Issue #4

Featured Articles

iJET Unveils 2007 Year-in-Review Report on Avian Influenza and Pandemic Planning

iJET Intelligent Risk Systems, a leading provider of global intelligence and business resiliency services, today announced the publication of 2007 Year in Review: Avian Influenza and Pandemic Planning. Created by iJET's health intelligence team, the report provides analysis of worldwide incidences of the avian flu virus (H5N1) and summarizes global pandemic response and preparedness, delivering a comprehensive point of reference to aid organizations in the development and continuation of effective pandemic planning. According to international experts, global eradication of H5N1 viruses remains a distant and unlikely prospect. While scientists have focused on H5N1 as the most likely candidate for the next pandemic, other influenza viruses could also lead to a global outbreak. In 2007, people also fell ill with H9, H7 and H2 viruses, any of which could create the next pandemic, making the threat that much more dangerous from a global perspective. A pandemic can disrupt supply chains, endanger the health and safety of employees, and otherwise threaten critical infrastructures-testing the limits of an organization. While 2007 brought high levels of attention to the threat of a pandemic from multinational corporations, global organizations and governments, increased adoption and implementation of pandemic planning remains a critical issue. iJET's year-end report provides authoritative analysis on the global threats, helping risk managers and continuity planners to benchmark existing programs and better prepare for years ahead.

Source: iJET Newsletter 2-12-08

Delta Air Lines Said to Be Near a Northwest Deal

The boards of Delta and Northwest have both scheduled emergency board meetings for Tuesday where the deal, which would reshape the airline industry, could be approved, these people said. Still, these people cautioned that several outstanding issues still needed to be resolved — including reaching an agreement with the pilots' unions — and that the negotiations could be delayed or collapse altogether. If a deal is reached, it would end months of speculation about a combination of Delta and Northwest, which would create the world's largest airline. Such a merger would also probably spur more consolidation: United Airlines and Continental Airlines also have been holding merger discussions and are likely to announce their own deal. United and Continental are eager to announce their merger soon after any Delta-Northwest tie-up, so that regulators can look at both deals at the same time.

[\(Full Story\)](#) Source: NYTimes 2-19-08

AMR, Continental in exploratory merger talks:

American Airlines and Continental Airlines Inc have had exploratory talks about a merger, the Wall Street Journal reported on Friday. Citing people familiar with the situation, the report said it was not clear if the discussions would go any further. Continental has been in intensifying discussions with United Airlines (UAUA.O) about a possible tie up. It is unclear if the latest development with American, reflects on prospects for UAL Corp's United and Continental.

[\(Full Story\)](#) Source: Wash Post 2/15/08

Continental Joining SkyTeam Partners In MEX Terminal 2

Continental will relocate flight operations to Terminal 2 at Mexico City International Airport (MEX) on February 19. The airline will share the terminal with SkyTeam partners.

Source: Business Travel Exec 2-14-07

US Air drops frequent fliers' minimum

As airlines look for ways to cut costs and increase revenue, US Airways said Thursday it would make it harder for passengers to earn frequent-flier miles that can be used for free tickets and seat upgrades. The airline will no longer award a minimum of 500 miles for a flight, eliminating a long-held industry practice that has allowed frequent fliers to more quickly accumulate miles for award travel even on short trips. The change in policy is the latest in what analysts said was a move by airlines to limit and restrict frequent-flier programs, including new fees and requirements, that has made accruing miles and obtaining free tickets harder than ever.

[\(Full Story\)](#) Source: LA Times 2-15-07

United to begin charging for a second checked bag

The airline will impose a \$50 fee on round-trip domestic flights beginning May 5. United Airlines will begin charging some passengers \$50 to check in a second piece of luggage on domestic round-trip flights, becoming the first big carrier to impose a fee for a service that has long been included in the price of a ticket. As of late Monday no other major carrier had followed United, but some analysts said that if the move didn't generate significant resistance from consumers, the traditional two-free-bag rule was likely to go the way of other amenities such as free meals and pillows.

[\(Full Story\)](#) Source: LATimes 2-5-08

BA Plans Service Between JFK & London City Airport

British Airways will start twice-daily, business-class-only flights from London City Airport to New York JFK next year. The new flights will operate on Airbus A318 aircraft with just 32 seats. The airline has ordered two A318s to operate the flights. BA will offer a 15-minute check-in for customers in London and New York. Source: Business Travel Exec 2-14-07

Business Travel Update

February 2008

A Business Travel Update provided by Professional Travel

Issue #4

Airline mergers could mean bigger cattle cars

The wave of much-publicized airline mergers could mean turbulent skies ahead for passengers who might find higher tickets prices and fewer options for travel, according to news reports from analysts and consumer groups. "Those predictions come as Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines are believed to be inching closer to a merger agreement that could create the world's largest air carrier and spur other domestic carriers to combine," said The Houston Chronicle.

[\(Full Story\)](#) Source: TravelMole 2-19-08

Hertz Adds Trip Planning To Navigation System

After completing a trial period, Online Trip Planning is now available in the Hertz NeverLost in-car navigation system. The service allows Hertz customers to plan their trips entirely online from the convenience of their home or office. They go to Neverlost.com, enter their trip information, save it to a personal USB storage device and insert it into the Hertz NeverLost system. In the past, users entered information for each destination into the Hertz NeverLost system one destination at a time. With Online Trip Planning, entire trips can be planned in advance, Hertz says. Online Trip Planning is complimentary to Hertz NeverLost customers at most major airport locations, exclusively in full-size cars and above. The system costs \$10.95 per day.

Source: Business Travel Exec 2-14-07

American Airlines to Woo International Travelers

Lie-flat beds and comfortable seats that swivel will be among the perks American Airlines will spotlight in a new campaign launching during ABC's Academy Awards telecast on Feb. 24. The ads are aimed at the profitable international traveler segment, who are more likely to crave such comforts on long flights. T:M Advertising, Dallas handles.

[\(Full Story\)](#) Source: Brandweek 2-6-08

US Airways Launches Charlotte Service To Texas Cities

US Airways will begin service from its hub in Charlotte, NC, to Austin and San Antonio on May 4. The regional jet service will be operated by Mesa Airlines as US Airways Express. ■

Source: Business Travel Exec 2-14-07

Hand baggage restrictions are being relaxed for passengers on connecting flights at Gatwick Airport's north terminal from Monday.

People travelling on connecting flights through the south terminal have been able to travel with more than one piece of hand luggage since 7 January.

A spokeswoman for the West Sussex airport said the new rules remained subject to airlines' permission.

She added the one bag rule per person continued for all other flights.

"This rule will be relaxed in the near future when the ongoing construction project to upgrade and expand the security facilities at the airport is completed," she said.

[\(Full Story\)](#) Source: BBC 2-10-08

United to open special check-in at O'Hare for first-class passengers

Passengers who pay top dollar to fly United Airlines overseas soon won't have to rub elbows at the check-in line with the folks who sit back in coach. This month, the Chicago-based carrier plans to open a special lobby at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport for first-class and elite frequent fliers who are headed to international destinations. It is part of a multipronged strategy to boost passenger revenue at the nation's second-largest carrier. United wants to offer luxurious service to passengers who pay hefty premiums to sit at the front of its cabins, while introducing a la carte charges for those flying coach on discounted tickets.

[\(Full Story\)](#) Source: Chicago Tribune 2-6-08

American, Jet Airways Launch Codeshare

Jet Airways and American Airlines have started their codeshare deal and interchange of mileage programs. American Airlines will now market and apply its code on Jet Airways flights between Delhi and Ahmedabad, Bengaluru (Bangalore), Chennai (Madras), Hyderabad, Kolkata (Calcutta) and Mumbai (Bombay). Similarly, to connect with its daily flights from New York's JFK Airport to Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai, Jet Airways will apply its code on American Airlines and American Eagle flights between JFK and Baltimore, Boston, Cleveland, Dallas-Fort Worth, Raleigh-Durham and Washington Reagan.

Source: Business Travel Exec 2-14-07

Professional Travel's Business Travel News

is published monthly. The information is gathered from current articles and news worthy information regarding the travel industry that we feel is important for those individuals who manage their corporations travel programs. If you have any questions please call us at 1-800-247-0060.