

Flying TIMES

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE AIR NEW ZEALAND GROUP

Star Alliance streamlines structure for next phase of airline competition

The six member airlines of Star Alliance have announced the creation of a small, dedicated management team to implement the five-year business plan approved by the airlines' presidents at their recent meeting in Rio de Janeiro.

The presidents of the airlines see the move as a natural evolution of the process that began on May 14, 1997, when Star Alliance was founded, and one designed to meet head-on the next phase of airline competition.

Six Executives

The Star Alliance will now be directed on a day-to-day

basis by six executives, who were hand picked by the airline presidents. The newly formed Alliance Management Board will be chaired by Friedel Roedig of Lufthansa. The deputy chair will be Bruce Harris of United Airlines.

Each of the other members of the management board will be responsible for a specific area of strategic importance to Star Alliance.

Ross MacCormack of Air Canada will be responsible for development of the Global Network, including regulatory issues. Per Stendebakken of SAS - Scandinavian Airlines will be responsible for ensuring Seamless Service and Product Development. Bruce

Parker of United will be responsible for all issues related to Information Technology and Automation.

A sixth member will be added to the management board at a later date to be responsible for all issues related to Market Presence, including sales and coordinating the Alliance's frequent flyer programs. In the interim, Mr Roedig of Lufthansa will handle this strategic development area.

Ready to accelerate

"Bringing together airline organisations that span the globe is very complex," said Mr Roedig. "Over the past two years, numerous working

groups with representation from each of the Star Alliance members have worked closely together to define the issues and develop ways to tackle them. Now that the groundwork is in place, we are ready to accelerate the process, which calls for a different kind of structure. We have more than a two-year jump on the competition, and we intend to maintain that lead."

Star Alliance currently comprises Air Canada, Lufthansa German Airlines, SAS - Scandinavian Airlines, Thai Airways International, United Airlines and VARIG Brazilian Airlines. Air New Zealand and Ansett Australia intend to join early next year, followed by Japan's All Nippon Airways.

'Thanks everyone ...and here's to a bright and prosperous New Year'



As 1998 draws to a close, I'd like to extend my thanks to everyone throughout the Air New Zealand Group for your hard work and commitment over the past year. It hasn't been the easiest year we've ever enjoyed, but we have remained focused and, in the circumstances, have made some positive gains in pursuit of our strategies. Thank you all for your continued efforts in these challenging times.

Thankfully, the coming year offers more promise. As we move towards the events around the millennium, there are many opportunities in which Air New Zealand can shine. We will be bringing many visitors to our part of the world and we have an enviable opportunity to show these visitors our unique Pacific style.

With these events, and with our work with Ansett Australia and our admission to the Star Alliance early next year, I believe 1999 is going to be the beginning of another very

exciting period in our history.

Our membership in the Star Alliance will immediately elevate our status in global terms. We will no longer be the little kiwi battler, competing in the world on our own. As many of you already know, membership implies much work in the alignment and integration of our systems and requires new attitudes to cooperation. We will be a member of the world's largest airline alliance, contributing to and drawing on the strength such an alliance offers.

Meanwhile, I take this opportunity to offer my best wishes for the festive season. If you are taking leave over this period, I trust you have happy, relaxing times with your family and friends.

To those of you who are working through, I extend my special thanks. This is our busiest time of the year and I appreciate how demanding it is, especially for those in the frontline of duty. Please be assured that your work is appreciated - not just by me and your colleagues - but also by the thousands of people we bring together through the holiday season. Your work makes their journey possible. So thank you all, and best wishes.

Jim McCrea
Jim McCrea
Managing Director

Airline Group receives Ramp Safety Award

Members of the Air New Zealand Group have been recognised for their efforts in maintaining high safety standards in the airport ramp environment. Air New Zealand, Air Nelson, Eagle Air and Freedom Air were among the member organisations who were recently presented with the Flight Safety Foundation's Air BP Ramp Safety Award for 1998.

The award, which was presented to the Australasian Aviation Ground Safety Council (AAGSC) of which we are a member, was collected by Norman Hogwood, Air New Zealand Ground Safety Adviser and Ulrich 'Ollie' Ojczyk, Manager Airside Safety of Ansett Australia (and current chairman of the AAGSC). Norman and Ollie flew to Cape Town, courtesy of Air BP, to collect the award on 18 November.

"Winning this award is something of which the airlines can be proud. It's great to receive recognition for our efforts in ensuring our airports are safe places - for both our passengers and our staff," says Norman.

Norman, who was the first AAGSC Chairman and held the position from 1982 to 1991, recalls that the Council started with a mere four members. Today, the Council has 29 members including Ansett Australia, the Royal New Zealand Air Force, United Airlines - as well as Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington International Airports. Over the last two years, the AAGSC has conducted ramp safety seminars at Auckland, Christchurch, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Nadi - and these have been attended by some 450 front-line personnel, including supervisors and managers. A further two are planned to be held in Wellington and Melbourne next year.



Ulrich Ojczyk, Manager Airside Safety, Ansett Australia (left) and Norman Hogwood, Air New Zealand Ground Safety Adviser proudly display the Ramp Safety Award they received on behalf of AAGSC.

Commenting on the Ramp Safety Award itself, Norman says it was established by Air

BP and awarded for the first time in 1996. The award recognises 'outstanding or significant improvement in the ramp safety environment through innovation and implementation of a ramp safety program including methods, practices or policies'.

According to Stuart Matthews, President of the Flight Safety Foundation, this year's Air BP Ramp Safety Award was presented to the AAGSC for 'the Council's achievement and continuing efforts to improve ramp safety'. "Among the Council's many achievements were the improvement of rescue service and fire service at a major airport, as well as its success in encouraging the international adoption of improved airport rescue and fire-service response-times," said Stuart.

The award was presented at the Flight Safety Foundation's 51st annual International Air Safety Seminar, which is where you may recall our Chief Medical Officer, Dr. David Powell presented an address on Air New Zealand's flight crew fatigue programme.

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