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#### COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT

### Malta International Airport plc (the "Company")

# Traffic Results 2017, Forecast 2018 & Appointment of New Head

Date of Announcement 12 January 2018

Reference 270/2018

In terms of Chapter 5 of the Listing Rules

# **QUOTE**

Malta International Airport today presented its traffic forecast for 2018, revealing that it expects to register further growth in the coming year to reach a total of 6.5 million passengers.

Presented at the airport's yearly traffic results press conference, this forecast comes hot on the heels of Malta International Airport's announcement that it had reached its 6 millionth passenger milestone, thus breaking all previous traffic records. 2017 was brought to a close with 6,014,548 passenger movements, translating into an impressive upturn of 17.5 per cent over 2016, and establishing 2017 as the fastest-growing year.

Thriving passenger numbers were observed in parallel with an increase of 15 per cent in aircraft movements and an 18 per cent growth in seat capacity. In spite of this increase in the number of seats available, the seat load factor (SLF) for the year still stood at a healthy 82.4 per cent, in line with the observed European trend.

Malta International Airport's top drivers of traffic for 2017 were the United Kingdom (+8.9 per cent), Italy (+14.8 per cent), Germany (+20.9 per cent), France (+20.6 per cent), and Belgium (+109.2 per cent).

It was also highlighted that all months had achieved double-digit growth for the first time in the airport's records, auguring well for the strategy developed by Malta International Airport, the Ministry for Tourism and the Malta Tourism Authority to promote Malta as a year-round tourist destination.

The airport revealed that its summer schedule for 2018 features no less than 16 new routes, bringing the airport's destination network up to a 100. Moreover, this schedule introduces for the first time flights to Portugal; a long sought-after destination. This development stems from the recent efforts of the traffic development team at Malta International Airport and the respective government entities to establish a link with this previously unserved destination.



Beyond traffic projections, 2018 promises to be a busy year in terms of infrastructure developments, as it will mark the completion of Malta International Airport's €12 million Terminal Reconfiguration Project. While most of the terminal improvements falling within phase 1 of this project have been delivered, the focus has now shifted to the Check-In Hall, which will be equipped with eight additional check-in desks and a new Baggage Handling System (BHS) by summer 2018.

During the press conference, it was also revealed that in the coming year MIA will be investing another €8.8 million in terminal and airfield improvements, airport operations and security, and a new cargo village.

Finally, MIA CEO Alan Borg presented the Company's financial targets for the year:

- 6.5 million passenger movements forecast for 2018, an increase of 7-9% over 2017.
- Total Revenue is expected to reach over €87 Million.
- EBITDA is expected to reach over €52 Million.
- Net Profit is projected to reach over €28 Million.
- Capital Investments are estimated at €11 Million.
- Net Debt is estimated to be below zero.
- Annual taxes and dividend contributions to Government are expected to be in the region of €18 Million.

The Company would also like to announce the appointment of Mr Alex Cardona as Head of Traffic Development and Customer Service. Mr Cardona joined Malta International Airport in 2013 and managed the Traffic Development team for four years prior to stepping into his new role on the 1st of January 2018.

# **UNQUOTE**

Signed:

Louis de Gabriele COMPANY SECRETARY

Malta International Airport is the only airport serving the Maltese islands, connecting the tiny island state to more than 80 destinations through over 30 partner airlines. With 97% of all Malta's tourists flying through it, the airport handles more than 6 million passengers annually, as well as over 16,000 tonnes of cargo. The airport's existent terminal has been in operation for the past 26 years, during which time it has grown to support over 4,000 airport jobs, accommodate 45 retail and catering outlets, and provide parking for over 1,500 cars. In 2017, Malta International Airport ranked amongst the top five European airports in ACI's Airport Service Quality survey for the seventh consecutive year, and in 2016 it was awarded a prestigious 4-star rating by Skytrax. Malta International Airport owns SkyParks Business Centre, an eco-certified building that provides nearly 10,000m<sup>2</sup> of office space and 4,000m<sup>2</sup> of retail and amenities. To maximise its contribution to Malta's cultural heritage and environment, Malta International Airport set up the Malta Airport Foundation in 2015, an independently run non-profit organisation

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