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### **Passenger markets soften in November, air cargo still weak - IATA**

IATA has revealed its latest global traffic results, for November, which show that international passenger demand shrank by 1.5 per cent compared to the previous month, while domestic demand rose by 1.3 per cent.

Air freight markets fell 3.1 per cent compared to November 2010, although there was a slight increase over October of 1.1 per cent. The overall decline was “in line with weak economic performance and falling business confidence”. Tony Tyler, IATA’s Director General and CEO, commented “Freight markets have contracted some four per cent compared to January. Although passenger markets have had some growth relative to the beginning of the year – about two per cent– the trend has been both soft and volatile. Continuing economic uncertainty will likely mean market shortcomings deepening as we enter 2012”.

### **Transaero signs for four Dreamliners**

In a brief statement Transaero has announced that it has signed an agreement with Boeing for four B787 Dreamliners.

The Russian carrier signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Boeing in November for the supply of four B747-8I’s following a similar MoU with Airbus for four A380s. Last month Transaero firmed up an order for eight A320neo’s.

Financial arrangements and the delivery schedule for the latest order have been not been revealed but would be worth approximately \$800 million at list prices.

### **Thai completes its first biofuel flight**

Thai Airways has completed its first flight using biofuel. The recent flight, from Bangkok Suvarnabhumi, used a Rolls-Royce powered B777-200. A second biofuel flight took place the following day, this time with fare paying passengers, between Bangkok and Chiang Mai, the first passenger biofuel flight in Asia according to Thai. Dirk Kronemeijer, Managing Director SkyNRG, supplier of the biofuel said "We think the Asia Pacific continent has great potential to give a critical boost towards making the market for sustainable jet fuel that is affordable. In this roadmap THAI has made a fantastic step....But there is a lot more to come in this continent and we are determined to be there when that happens".

### **Jade Cargo suspends services due to "overall weak" demand**

Jade Cargo, the Shenzhen based freight carrier, has suspended operations claiming "overall weak air cargo demand". The suspension is temporary said the airline and will provide "the shareholders with an opportunity to coordinate with stakeholders to continue with the restructuring of the company's financial structure". Jade, which was launched in 2004 with Shenzhen Airlines and Lufthansa Cargo as its major shareholders, grounded its fleet of six B744-ERFs last month, apparently due to its inability to pay its fuel bill.

### **Air India to issue "preference shares" worth INR75 bn to banks**

The Board of Air India has approved issuing "preference shares" worth INR75 billion to its lenders, a group comprising over 20 banks led by the State Bank of India, as part of its restructuring plan. The deal, which would convert part of its working capital loan into share capital, would make the banks shareholders in the state run airline although it has still to be agreed by the Indian government. The exact level that the banks would own in the flag carrier was not made clear

### **Piece of Aviation History for January 3**

**1923** - Lieutenant Joseph Thoret (1892-1971) makes the first soaring flight of more than 5 hours. He uses a Hanriot HD-14 biplane and flies, with his engine switched off, using hill-side air currents over Biskra, Algeria. Apparently the total flight lasted seven hours and three minutes. Thoret had been sent to Algeria by the French Under-Secretary of State for Air to select a site for a forthcoming glider competition.

### **Quote of the Day**

The man who insists on seeing with perfect clearness before he decides, never decides.  
Henri-Frédéric Amiel

### **A Bit of Light Relief**

While waiting at the veterinarian's office, I overheard two women chatting about their dogs. "What's your dog's name?" asked the first woman. "Well, we used to call her Pork Chop," answered the second lady. "But after all the vet bills we've had for her, we now call her Filet Mignon."