

6 September 2016

Aer Lingus reclaims title: "Fastest Airline in the World" in Budapest Airport Runway Run

On the runway, Budapest Airport 3 September 2016: A team of 20 Aer Lingus runners raced down Budapest Airport's Runway 13R-31L this weekend to reclaim the title of "The Fastest Airline in the World" in the air transport industry's annual 10km charity race, beating a dozen other airline teams and snatching the title back from reigning champions SWISS.

In total 976 runners from airlines, airports and other aviation enterprises – including headline sponsor Airbus – lined up on the start line. As well as winning the most-coveted team prize, Aer Lingus also took the "double" as team member Robert Murphy crossed the line in first place with a 34-second lead, resoundingly beating all other competitors over the 10km course – four lengths of the runway – taking the prize of "Fastest Aviator" in a blazing time of 34:47 – the second time the 35-old Irishman has taken the title in his running career.

The Aer Lingus CEO, Stephen Kavanagh, himself a twice-veteran of the Budapest Airport Runway Run, personally stood on the Dublin Airport Tarmac to greet the team's victorious homecoming: "After the disappointment of losing the world's fastest airline title last year, it's even more satisfying to reclaim it in such style in 2016. Congratulations to all involved from across our airline in delivering a great team performance, you've done Aer Lingus proud and helped a great charitable cause along the way."

The fourth Budapest Airport Runway Run, co-organised with the airline news and analysis website www.anna.aero, and sponsored by Airbus and Qatar Airways, takes place on a normally extremely active runway (the airport has two) and involves closing runway 13R-31L for just a few hours in order to stage the air transport industry's annual premier charity sporting event, held in aid of the bone marrow transplant charity, Anthony Nolan, and Hungary's Suhanj! Foundation, a charity which supports the inclusion of disabled people in sport (some of Hungary's Paralympic team departed Budapest Airport for Rio on the same day as the race).

Teams and individual runners included serious competitive entries fielded by Qatar Airways, Pegasus Airlines, Emirates, Egyptair, Etihad, Small Planet Airlines, LOT Polish Airlines, United Airlines, SkyWork Airlines, ASL Airlines, Wizz Air, Turkish Airlines and last year's titleholders SWISS. ASL Airlines' László Molnár was fastest Airline CEO (finishing in 46 minutes), while Ralf Schmid, the CEO of Allgäu Airport Memmingen (also known as Munich West Airport) was this year's Fastest Airport CEO. Holding on to its title of 'Fastest Airport' for a second year running, Poland's Wroclaw Airport once again challenged several energetic airports from across Europe, while headline sponsor Airbus went home triumphant as the 'Fastest Aviation Enterprise'.

Speaking at the prize-giving on the concourse of the airport's historic Terminal 1, Budapest Airport CEO Jost Lammers said: "It was a very hot race today with temperatures close to 35C on the runway – even the most experienced runners admitted that just finishing the race was a real athletic achievement. We are very proud of all our competitors for their part in making this a record-attended runway run – close to 1,000 runners from across the international aviation community took part helping to promote our airport and this fantastic city while allowing us to donate 100% of entrance fees to the benefiting charities. This event is firmly and truly established as a winning formula for all."



Photo caption: 976 runners from airlines, airports and other aviation enterprises – including headline sponsor Airbus – took part in this year’s Budapest Airport Runway Run, Saturday 3 September.



Photo caption: A team of 20 Aer Lingus runners raced down Budapest Airport’s Runway 13R-31L this weekend to reclaim the title of “The Fastest Airline in the World” in the air transport industry’s annual 10km charity race.

Notes for Editors

- Budapest Airport Zrt. is the operator of Budapest Airport. It is owned by an international consortium of investors, led by the privately-owned German company AviAlliance, an independent airport manager holding a 55.438% stake, together with Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (21.228%), and Malton Investment Pte Ltd. (23.334%).
- Budapest Airport welcomed 10.3 million passengers in 2015, flying on the airport's services to 95 destinations across 36 countries.
- Monthly passenger traffic growth in the period to end-July 2016 has exceeded +6.5%.
- Budapest Airport's route development for 2016 include:
Launched since April:
 - Ryanair, weekly service to Gran Canaria, 3 April 2016;
 - easyJet thrice-weekly service to Lyon, 26 April 2016;
 - Ryanair, weekly service to Corfu, 28 April 2016.
 - Air Canada Rouge, thrice-weekly service to Toronto, 11 June 2016;
 - Wizz Air weekly service to Ibiza, 18 June 2016;
 - Bulgaria Air four-times weekly service to Sofia, 20 June;
 - Asiana Airlines weekly service to Seoul Incheon, 1 July;
 - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Varna, 3 August.

To launch:

- Ryanair daily service to Berlin, starting 2 September 2016;
- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Porto, starting 4 September 2016;
- Air Algérie twice-weekly service to Algeria, starting 15 September 2015;
- Wizz Air four times weekly service to Bucharest, starting 19 September 2016;
- Wizz Air weekly service to Fuerteventura, starting 30 October 2016;
- EasyJet thrice-weekly service to Venice Marco Polo, starting 31 October 2016;
- Ryanair daily service to Nuremberg, starting 1 November 2016;
- Wizz Air weekly service to Lanzarote, starting 2 November 2016;
- Wizz Air thrice-weekly service to Sofia, starting 1 November 2016.

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