

4 September 2017

## Home run on Budapest Airport's runway as Wizz Air becomes the 'Fastest Airline in the World'

**Where:** Budapest Airport Runway 13R-31L.

**When:** Saturday 2 September 2017.

**Who:** 1,077 runners drawn from airlines, airports, other aviation enterprises, and running enthusiasts from throughout Hungary and across the globe.

**Powered by:** Budapest Airport, [anna.aero](http://anna.aero), Airbus and airline sponsor Qatar Airways.

**Who benefits:** International cancer charity Anthony Nolan and the SUHANJ! Foundation, which assists the inclusiveness of handicapped people in sport.

A team of 26 Wizz Air runners raced down Budapest Airport's Runway 13R-31L on Saturday 2 September to claim the title of 'The Fastest Airline in the World.' Hosting the annual air transport industry's 10km charity race, the airport once again closed one of its extremely active runways so that runners could take part in the exceptional experience of racing down the runway of a major European airport in daylight.

With this year's entries more than quadrupling since the first run five years ago, last weekend saw more than 1,000 runners from airlines, airports and other aviation enterprises from around the globe line up on the start line. As home-based Wizz Air won the most-coveted team prize, main title sponsor Airbus went home triumphant as the 'Fastest Aviation Enterprise' once again, while also seeing its team leader Dionisio Olalla-Lopez, Sales Director, being the first to cross the line as 'Fastest Aviator' with a scorching time of 37:34.

Having raised a record €35,000 last year – this year's numbers yet to be confirmed – the fifth Budapest Airport Runway Run, co-organised with the airline news and analysis website [www.anna.aero](http://www.anna.aero), and sponsored by Airbus and Qatar Airways was held again 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. "The support from all involved over the years of the run has been incredible," explains Laura Howard Jones, Head of Corporate Partnerships, Anthony Nolan. "The money raised goes a long way in saving and improving the lives of people with blood cancer, and we can't thank you enough," added Jones.

Following a year-round global promotion of Budapest Airport to the international airline and air transport community, this year's runners and teams included a competitive entry of 24 runners from 2016 overall winner Aer Lingus. The Irish flag carrier was joined by numerous other entrants from airline sponsor Qatar Airways, Air Transat, ASL Airlines, Etihad Airways, Turkish Airlines, Small Planet Airlines, Ryanair, Norwegian Air Shuttle, United Airlines as well as returning past champions SWISS. Challenged by numerous airports, including those of Ljubljana, Malta, Vienna, Munich, Nuremburg, Belgrade, and even as far afield as Seattle-Tacoma, Poland's Wroclaw Airport firmly held on to its title of 'Fastest Airport' for the third consecutive year, while Heinemann Duty Free was 'Fastest Concessionaire 2017.'

Speaking at race headquarters in the airport's historic Terminal 1, Budapest Airport's CEO, Jost Lammers effused: "Budapest Airport continues to be extremely proud to stage such a unique event in Europe, and one which successfully brings together the air transport community. Our annual sporting and fundraising event is a wonderful opportunity for us to support our benefitting charities, while those involved can also experience our superb airport and stunning city. Thank you to all who joined us."



Photo caption: More than 1,000 runners entered this year's Budapest Airport-anna.aero Runway Run, sponsored by Airbus and Qatar Airways. The annual air transport industry's 10km charity race was held on Runway 13R-31L of Budapest Airport, Saturday 2 September.



Photo caption: Wizz Air takes a home run: winning team prize for the 'Fastest Airline in the World' the home-based airline is presented the trophy by Dionisio Olalla-Lopez, Sales Director, Airbus (left) which once again proudly supported the event as main title sponsor.



Photo caption: 'Fastest Aviator' Dionisio Olalla-Lopez, Sales Director, Airbus – which also took the title of 'Fastest Aviation Enterprise' for a second year – is the first to cross the line in a scorching time of 37:34, cheered on by Budapest Airport's CEO Jost Lammers (second left).

#### 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 more than 11.4 million passengers in 2016, flying on the airport's services to 111 destinations across 38 countries.
- Monthly passenger traffic growth July 2017 has exceeded +15.4%.
- Budapest Airport's route development includes:

#### Already launched:

- easyJet three times weekly service to Amsterdam, 6 February 2017;
- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Faro, 1 April 2017;
- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Skopje, 2 April 2017;
- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Podgorica, 3 April 2017;
- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Tirana, 5 April 2017;
- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Sarajevo, 5 April 2017;
- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Pristina, 7 April 2017;
- Wizz Air four times weekly service to Hannover, 10 April 2017;
- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Bergen, 10 April 2017;
- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Lamezia Terme, 12 April 2017;
- Flybe three times weekly service to London Southend, 4 May 2017;
- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Astana, 8 June 2017;
- Ukraine International Airlines, daily service to Kiev Boryspil, 15 June 2017;
- TAP Portugal daily service to Lisbon, 2 July 2017;
- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to St Petersburg, starting 27 August 2017.

#### To launch:

- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Bordeaux, starting 22 September 2017;
- Ryanair five times weekly service to Prague, starting 29 October 2017;
- Ryanair twice-weekly service to Palermo, starting 29 October 2017;
- Ryanair twice-weekly service to Marrakech, starting 30 October 2017;
- Ryanair twice-weekly service to Valencia, starting 30 October 2017;
- Ryanair twice-weekly service to Edinburgh, starting 30 October 2017;
- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Agadir, starting 31 October 2017;
- Ryanair twice-weekly service to Naples, starting 31 October 2017;
- Wizz Air daily service to Frankfurt, starting 15 December 2017;

- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Stavanger, starting 15 March 2018;
- Wizz Air five times weekly service to Basel, starting 3 May 2018;
- LOT Polish Airlines four times weekly service to New York (JFK), starting 3 May 2018;
- LOT Polish Airlines twice-weekly service to Chicago, starting 5 May 2018;
- American Airlines daily service to Philadelphia, starting 5 May 2018.

For more information:

**Kerry Parks, Account Manager, Budapest Airport Aviation Development PR**

PPS Publications, Media & Events

(44) 1293 783851/mobile (44) 7808 172723 or [kerry@pps-publications.com](mailto:kerry@pps-publications.com)