

1 June 2015

## airberlin CEO and marathon man Stefan Pichler set to dominate Budapest Airport Runway Run

airberlin CEO, Stefan Pichler, who once came third in the Frankfurt Marathon with a time of 2:16, has another title he wants to win: the trophy for "The Fastest Airline CEO in the World" in the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Budapest Airport Runway Run in September.

The Budapest Airport Runway Run, a 10km charity race organised in association with the online news service [www.anna.aero](http://www.anna.aero), takes place on the airport's runway 13R-31L at 11.00 on Saturday 5 September 2015. On this day Budapest Airport will close one of its two runways for four hours so runners drawn from airlines, airports and enterprises across the aviation community can once again compete for a series of trophies including the key team prize of the "The Fastest Airline in the World."

The airberlin CEO used to be a marathon runner of global competitive standard before he gave up the chance of athletic fame to embark on a dazzling career in the boardrooms of the world's airlines. Indeed Pichler's fastest marathon time is just 13 minutes behind the world record of 2:02:57 set by Kenya's Dennis Kimetto, appropriately enough at the 2014 Berlin Marathon.

Admittedly Pichler's marathon personal best in Frankfurt was recorded back in 1982, when he was just 25, while his 10km record of 32:46 was recorded even earlier, in 1979. "I am 58 now, I can maybe only do a 10k in 48 minutes and that's too slow," Pichler modestly told [anna.aero](http://anna.aero).

In the Budapest Runway Run Pichler's current challenger for the prize of "Fastest Airline CEO" prize is the Chief Executive of Aer Lingus, Stephen Kavanagh, who is also captain of the current holders of "The Fastest Airline in the World" team title. However, with an aggregated 10km individual time of 1.20, Kavanagh is unlikely to snatch "Fastest CEO" and, indeed, he may even cross the line up to 32 minutes behind his airberlin rival – enough time for a younger Pichler to have run the whole race all over again.

Jost Lammers, Budapest Airport's CEO comments: "The support and involvement we experienced at last year's run was overwhelming. With the aviation community coming together in aid of some truly great causes we were proud to host such a successful event. We implore our partners and air transport leaders everywhere to join us again this year at what is proving to be the next great, must-be-at aviation event."

All Budapest Runway Run entry fees and sponsorship proceeds are donated to international child cancer causes and a Hungarian charity assisting the inclusiveness of handicapped people in sports.



Photo caption: Budapest Airport will close runway 13R-31L on Saturday 5 September so that the Budapest Airport Runway Run can take place. 609 runners from the global aviation community took part last year when Aer Lingus won “Fastest Airline in the World”. 1,000 runners are being targeted for September’s 10km race. All proceeds are donated to charities. (Note: Several hi-res images are available.)

To register your interest or sign up visit: <http://www.anna.aero/budrunwayrun>

#### 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 52.66% stake, together with Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (20.17%), Malton Investment Pte Ltd. (22.17%) and KfW IPEX-Bank GmbH (5%).
- Budapest Airport welcomed 9.1 million passengers in 2014, flying on the airport’s services to 88 destinations across 35 countries.
- Monthly passenger traffic growth in the period to end-April 2015 has exceeded +10%.
- Budapest Airport’s route development for 2015 include:
  - Already launched:
    - Vueling thrice-weekly services to Barcelona and Rome, 27 March 2015
    - SAS four-times weekly service to Stockholm Arlanda, 29 March 2015
    - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Lisbon, 30 March 2015
    - Ryanair four-times weekly service to Athens, 1 April 2015
    - Air China four-times weekly service to Beijing, 1 May 2015
    - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Maastricht, 15 May 2015
    - Wizz Air once-weekly service to Hurghada, 16 May 2015
    - Iberia thrice-times services to Madrid, 2 June 2015
  - To launch:
    - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Bologna, starting 5 June 2015
    - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Glasgow, starting 13 June 2015
    - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Alghero, starting 15 June 2015
    - Air Transat weekly service to Montréal-Toronto, starting 18 June 2015
    - SkyGreece Airlines twice-weekly service to Toronto, starting 18 June 2015
    - Iberia Express four-times weekly service to Madrid, starting 18 July 2015
    - Wizz Air daily service to Copenhagen, starting 25 October 2015
    - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Tenerife South, starting 30 October 2015

To find out more on Budapest Airport, visit [www.bud.hu](http://www.bud.hu)

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)