

9 September 2015

## Swiss International Air Lines wins race to be: “Fastest Airline In The World” in Airbus-sponsored anna.aero-Budapest Airport Runway Run

Swiss International Air Lines (SWISS) is officially “The Fastest Airline In The World” having won the air transport industry’s 10km charity race held annually on Runway 13R-31L of Budapest Airport on Saturday 5 September, beating the reigning champions, Aer Lingus, although the IAG carrier achieved a second-place podium finish for both its team and individual runners.

The SWISS team (called “HB Fun” after the designator for Swiss-registered aircraft) also took “the double” as team member Christian Mathys was the first to cross the line as “Fastest Aviator” flying time of 31.02 – a course record (or four lengths of the runway).

Commenting on the victory for the Star Alliance airline team, SWISS CEO, Harry Hohmeister, said: “The victory of the brilliant SWISS team in winning ‘Fastest Airline In The World’ in the Budapest Airport Runway Run is also a triumph for the company’s closely-held corporate and social responsibility goals. A healthy, motivated workforce is a key factor in our success and desire to remain competitive internationally. I applaud our fine SWISS Corporate Citizens for both their sporting achievement, and for taking part in a significant industry charity initiative.”

The Airbus-sponsored anna.aero-Budapest Airport Runway Run took place on a specially-closed, normally very busy, operational runway which was re-opened to traffic less than two hours after the event. 920 runners entered this year’s race, the third time Budapest Airport has staged the annual event which is co-organised with the airline news and analysis website [www.anna.aero](http://www.anna.aero) and which is now positioned as the air transport industry’s premier charity sports spectacle.

Besides SWISS, teams and individual airline entries ranged from home-based carrier Wizz Air to Air Canada Jazz, Aeroflot, Air France, Brussels Airlines, Qatar Airways, SkyWest Airlines, Singapore Airlines, Finnair, Ethiopian Airlines, Monarch Airlines, LOT Polish Airlines, Turkish Airlines, Emirates, and last year’s defending champion, Aer Lingus. Small Planet Airlines’ Andreas Wobig was fastest Airline CEO (finishing in 45 minutes), while Poland’s Wroclaw Airport beat a field of much bigger airports including Aeroporti di Roma, Toulouse, Manchester, Berlin, Munich, and London-Heathrow to take the prize of ‘Fastest Airport’. The allied prize, for Fastest Aviation Enterprise, was contested by several air transport-related companies, including title sponsor Airbus, and won by the global duty free shop operator, Gebr. Heinemann.

Personally leading a team into the race, Airbus EVP Sales Europe, Chris Buckley, said: “Airbus is extremely proud to be the main sponsor of this leading sports charity event for the global aviation industry – we entered 12 enthusiastic runners into the race and we particularly welcomed the opportunity to share a runway with an airport which is dominated by Airbus flights, including Wizz Air, the first low cost carrier to commit to the A321neo (with an order for 110 units). With so many of our customers on the Budapest Airport runway, the Airbus team had to run the race at a deliberately slow pace in order not to humiliate the airline teams and damage our excellent customer relationships.

However, the support we are able to give to the benefiting good causes is the ample and much-treasured prize for Airbus.”

Jost Lammers, CEO of Budapest Airport, added: “Budapest Airport takes significant pride in staging the air transport industry’s annual sporting and charity event which is unique in its category in Europe. It combines the unforgettable sporting experience of running on a runway with the chance for us to show off the beauties of the city of Budapest to our guests and business partners from the aviation industry, while allowing us to donate all entry proceeds to the Suhanj! foundation in Hungary, and to the Anthony Nolan charity which provides bone marrow transplants for leukaemia sufferers on a global basis. It really is win, win, win for everyone concerned.”

All participants in the race also receive the “Bron’s Medal,” named for Brontë “Bron” Hogan, the late-12 year-old daughter of Paul Hogan, the publisher of [www.anna.aero](http://www.anna.aero). “Brontë passed away in 2011 after a brave five-year battle with leukaemia during which she had two bone marrow transplants from a donor in Texas found by Anthony Nolan,” explained Hogan (53), a veteran of nine marathons who ran the race pushing his two-year old daughter in a jogging stroller in a personal best of 47 minutes. “I am grateful to Airbus, Budapest Airport, and all 920 sportsmen and women from the airlines, airports and air transport community who stepped-up to take part on the day – Bron would be honoured and you can wear your medals with considerable pride.”

Photos



Photo caption: 920 runners entered this year’s Airbus-sponsored [anna.aero](http://anna.aero)-Budapest Airport Runway Run which took place on the normally very busy Runway 13R-31L, a specially-closed operational runway which was re-opened to traffic less than two hours after the event.



Photo caption: Swiss International Air Lines is officially “The Fastest Airline In The World” having won the air transport industry’s 10km charity race held annually on Runway 13R-31L of Budapest Airport on Saturday 5 September. Team member Christian Mathys was also the first to cross the line as “Fastest Aviator” with a flying time of 31.02 – a course record (or four lengths of the runway). Airbus EVP Sales Europe, Chris Buckley (far right) presented the prize: “Airbus is extremely proud to be the main sponsor of this leading charity event for the global aviation industry.”



Photo caption: Home match: Wizz Air CEO, József Váradi (centre) “flies” down the runway past a Qatar Airways team member. Although the low cost carrier boss produced a respectable 53 minutes time, Lithuania’s Small Planet Airlines’, Andreas Wobig, was Fastest Airline CEO, in just 45 minutes.

**NOTE: SEVERAL MORE PHOTOS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.**

### 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-July 2015 has exceeded +14%.
- 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 weekly service to Hurgada, 16 May 2015
  - Iberia six times weekly service to Madrid, 2 June 2015
  - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Bologna, 5 June 2015
  - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Glasgow, 13 June 2015
  - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Alghero, 15 June 2015
  - Air Transat weekly service to Montréal-Toronto, 18 June 2015
  - SkyGreece Airlines twice-weekly service to Toronto, 18 June 2015

To launch:

- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Birmingham, starting 15 September 2015
- Ryanair daily service to Copenhagen, starting 25 October 2015
- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Tenerife South, starting 30 October 2015
- Ryanair twice-weekly service to Eilat-Ovda, starting 7 November 2015

For more information:

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

**Paul Hogan, Publisher, [anna.aero](http://anna.aero)**

PPS Publications, Media & Events

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