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Cologne Bonn cracks 12 million milestone

Building on a landmark year in 2016, Cologne Bonn Airport delivered its best-ever year in terms of throughput in the airport's history, concluding 2017 with new all-time records for both passenger traffic and cargo. As a result, 2017 becomes the fourth consecutive year that both passenger and cargo traffic has grown.

Handling 500,000 extra passengers in 2017 than in the previous year, Cologne Bonn produced a solid 4% passenger traffic growth, resulting in a total of 12.4 million passengers using the airport in 2017. Over one million passengers per month used the facility during April to October last year – the first time the airport has ever achieved this feat. Air freight also developed positively in 2017 – processing 840,000 tons and representing a 7% increase – another highpoint for Germany's third-largest cargo airport.

With A319s being the most frequently-used passenger aircraft to be operated at the German airport (28,700 movements), and the 767-300 being the most-popular cargo aircraft (5,700 movements), Terminal 1's boarding gate C20 saw the highest passenger use throughout 2017. Last year the airport was linked to 142 destinations in 48 countries, with Cape Town (9,465km) being the furthest network point with regular operations, while Leipzig-Halle (359km) was the closest destination served. Berlin Tegel ended the year as the most popular destination, with over 1.2 million passengers flying the busy domestic sector over the past 12 months.

The growth driver in passenger traffic in 2017 was above all Eurowings. Lufthansa's in-house low-cost long-haul airline has added new destinations such as Cape Town and Windhoek, southern African cities which are only served out of Cologne Bonn in the North Rhine-Westphalia region. Eurowings has also expanded its range of domestic routes from the airport with extra services to Berlin and Hamburg, as well as a new route to Munich being added. Despite the bankruptcy of airberlin in October, which operated to Berlin Tegel and Munich from Cologne Bonn, the airport still managed to produce a passenger increase of 3% in Q4 of 2017.

Notes for Editors

- Flughafen Köln/Bonn GmbH is the operator of Cologne Bonn Airport. The public enterprise is owned by a consortium of shareholders, jointly-led by the Federal Republic of Germany (30.94%), and the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia (30.94%), together with the City of Cologne (31.12%), the City of Bonn (6.06%), the Rhein-Sieg district (0.59%), and the Rheinisch Bergisch district (0.35%).
- Cologne Bonn Airport welcomed 12.4 million passengers in 2017, flying on the airport's services to 142 destinations across 48 countries, and handled 838,000 tonnes of cargo.
- Cologne Bonn Airport's route development 2018 includes:
 - To launch:
 - Eurowings twice-weekly service to Lanzarote, starting 16 January 2018;
 - Eurowings weekly service to Monastir, starting 28 March 2018;
 - SunExpress Germany weekly service to Ankara, starting 16 June 2018;
 - SunExpress weekly service to Ordu-Giresun, starting 19 June 2018.

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