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PrivatAir invests in European infrastructure

Business aviation specialist PrivatAir Group announces at EBACE today the construction of a private terminal in Geneva, US\$ 1.1m investment in ground handling services at Le Bourget and a four year partnership with travel company INTRAV.

Located to the west of the main Geneva passenger terminal, PrivatAir's terminal will be completed by the end of this year. *"We are committed to setting the standards for private air travel and are actively looking at other opportunities within Europe to extend our ground handling operations,"* said David Hurley, CEO PrivateAir Group.

Following the purchase of Transair's ground handling services at Le Bourget, Paris, PrivatAir Group also plans to rapidly upgrade these facilities. Work has already started on an \$1.1 million renovation programme due to be finished by the end of 2001 and includes the refurbishment of hangars and on-site meeting facilities.

"With our new facilities in Paris and Geneva, customers will be able to avoid crowded main terminals and maximise their time before flying for work, entertainment or relaxation. Behind the scenes we are working to ensure that everything is running smoothly including baggage handling, smooth customs and immigration clearance and of course timely departures," continues David Hurley.

The PrivatAir Group has also just agreed to a four-year partnership with deluxe-tour operator INTRAV, owned by Kuoni Travel Group. PrivatAir's BBJs already provide INTRAV'S leisure travelers with luxurious private-jet journeys to destinations that include Nepal, India, South America, Europe, Africa and soon Australia. INTRAV also has plans to offer Around-the-World tours with PrivatAir's BBJs, which have been configured to accommodate just 48 and 16 travelers, all in first-class luxury seats.

"Our working relationship with PrivatAir started in 1999 with 69 charter days and due to increased demand and repeat business from our customers we have now increased this to over 200 days during 2002," said Claudius Docekal, VP Product and Sales Development, INTRAV.

"PrivatAir offers us a level of convenience, service and professionalism that our customers expect. Over 50 per cent of our customers travel with us regularly, keen to avoid the hassles of commercial air travel. We like the flexibility and comfort the BBJs offer. The ability to cover large distances and to land at airfields where larger aircraft cannot land, providing closer access to our destinations. For example, as part of our South American tours we can land on the Galápagos Islands rather than operate via distant Guayaquil. Also to visit Machu Picchu we can land at nearby Cuzco airport rather than operate via Lima."



In March 2001 PrivatAir Group gained both ETOPS 180 minutes and FAA 129 Foreign Carrier approval as a designated carrier under the US-Switzerland bilateral "open skies" agreement. These approvals allow the company to offer the most direct routes across the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and unlimited operations to the US. Following this approval INTRAV has been able to include Easter Island as a destination as well as plan future operations to South East Asia from the US West Coast.