



Media Release

Global aviation summit explores low-carbon flight

GENEVA, 30 March 2009 – Developing a pathway towards the use of sustainable biofuels on commercial flights will be top of the agenda at the fourth Aviation and Environment Summit that begins tomorrow in Geneva, Switzerland. The global Summit will also highlight the technological progress, operational innovations and policy and economic challenges that are part of the international aviation industry's response to climate change.

Paul Steele, summit organiser and Executive Director of the Air Transport Action Group, said "The industry is facing probably the worst financial situation on record. Nevertheless it is impressive that nearly 400 delegates are attending this year's Summit, testament that environmental performance, along with safety, continues to be at the top of the aviation industry agenda."

Following a series of test flights over the past year, the aviation industry is confident that sustainable biofuels can be used in passenger aircraft. "We have flight-tested these exciting new fuels, they are undergoing analysis and more testing and the industry now has to focus efforts on scaling up production and distribution so that we can get enough sustainable biofuels into the tanks of our aircraft. The Summit will discuss a way forward for aviation biofuels and focus on how to ensure we are supplied from sustainable sources."

At last year's Summit top industry leader's signed a Declaration committing to a cross-industry approach to reducing aviation's climate change impact. "The Declaration has catalysed an even more coordinated approach across the aviation sector which is now showing significant results. This year's Summit will provide a platform to demonstrate real progress on a number of exciting projects and a chance for the industry to discuss further efforts to reduce emissions."

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The Summit is being attended by chief executives, presidents and directors general representing all parts of the commercial aviation industry – airports, airlines, air navigation service providers and manufacturers. It will also host environmental organisations, governments and, for the first time, sustainable biofuel suppliers to the aviation industry.

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Notes for media:

- The Air Transport Action Group is the only aviation industry body that comprises the whole commercial air transport sector and counts among its members the large aircraft and engine manufacturers as well as the global associations representing airlines, airports and air traffic control organisations.
- Its mandate focuses on ensuring the future growth of air transport is sustainable and highlighting the economic benefits that aviation brings to society. Currently, it is ensuring the industry has a coordinated approach to tackling its climate change impacts.
- The 4th Aviation & Environment Summit is organised by the Air Transport Action Group and coordinated with the International Air Transport Association, Airports Council International, Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation and International Coordinating Council for Aerospace Industries Associations.

Coverage opportunities

- **Television and internet broadcasts.** World Television is providing raw, broadcast-quality television footage of the event, with interviews, general vision and selected presentations available via an FTP site: <http://video360.world-television.com/AES4>. Media contact at World Television (for broadcast media footage enquiries only): Selina Vanier +41 22 301 63 42 or selina.vanier@world-television.com
- **Pool still photography.** Getty Images is providing images of the major announcements and general shots of selected speakers. News media can access these images via their usual Getty Images accounts at www.gettyimages.com keywords: aviation environment summit geneva.
- **News updates.** The website www.enviro.aero will carry live coverage of the event through its blog, available until the summit concludes.
- **Media contacts.** During the event, the summit press office will be available through email (doddh@atag.org) or the summit press office phone line (+41 22 747 03 80) – available from Monday 30 March to the evening of Wednesday 1 April.

Alternatively, the following press contacts can be used, but mobile phone access in the conference centre is unreliable, so during the event itself calling the press office line may be faster.

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