

New Payment Method for Air Tickets Successfully Demonstrated



Geneva – The International Air Transport Association (IATA) announced the successful completion of the first “IATA Pay” ticket purchase transaction in a live test environment. The transaction was conducted in partnership with ipagoo, a UK-based fintech company.

IATA Pay is an industry-supported initiative to develop a new payment option for consumers when purchasing a ticket directly from an airline website. It is made possible by the European Commission’s second Payment Services Directive (PSD2), and the UK’s Open Banking regulation. These regulations encourage use of so-called direct debit transactions in which payments are made from the customer’s bank account directly into the bank account of the merchant. This method offers an extremely high level of security to both user and recipient and can be instantaneous.

IATA’s role is to develop an industry solution enabling airlines to make this payment option available on their websites. The live test conducted with ipagoo was done under the UK’s Open Banking framework with IATA Pay pilot airlines, including Cathay Pacific Airways, Scandinavian Airlines and Emirates.

For airlines, the advantages of IATA Pay are:

- Cheaper payment option compared to other alternatives
- Highly secure

- Faster cashflow with instant/near instant payment to the merchant
- Simpler payment process resulting in fewer lost sales.

For consumers the benefits include access to a new, simpler method of payment that is highly secure.

“Today’s consumers, and especially millennials, have expectations of multiple payment options including mobile and peer-to-peer. IATA Pay responds to these expectations. At the same time, airlines are trying to manage significant card payment costs – \$8 billion per year and rising. A large part of this cost is incurred in direct purchases from airline websites. One of IATA’s strategic objectives is to support airlines’ financial sustainability including controlling costs,” said Aleksander Popovich, IATA’s Senior Vice President of Financial and Distribution Services.

Carlos Sanchez, CEO, ipagoo said: “We are delighted to have completed the first Open Banking live transaction for the airline industry, helping IATA and its member airlines to achieve their goals of operational and financial efficiency. ipagoo’s technology provides a secure, multi-country banking service for IATA. We are at the forefront of development and innovation within the financial industry and committed to helping businesses and their clients take advantage of the opportunities provided by Open Banking.”

IATA is also working with Deutsche Bank on a prototype for Europe (excluding the UK), starting with the German market, which is expected to undergo testing in early 2019.

Following this, IATA will validate the concept with the intention to expand to other regions.

Aeroflot named world's fifth most punctual airline and second in Europe



10 January 2019, Moscow – Aeroflot was the world's fifth most punctual airline in 2018, according to authoritative UK aviation publication FlightGlobal.

According to the annual FlightStats On-Time Performance Service (OPS) Awards, Aeroflot also ranked second among Europe's leading airlines, behind KLM only.

Throughout 2018, 82.98% of Aeroflot flights operated according to schedule, one of the best results in the global industry.



The FlightStats OPS Awards is one of the most comprehensive and objective ratings globally, analysing more than 120,000 flights daily. Departures and arrivals are monitored in real time, with data from 600 global sources.

“Aeroflot is continuously improving its quality of service,” said Vitaly Saveliev, CEO of Aeroflot. “We make every effort to ensure our passengers’ trips are as comfortable and punctual as possible. Our priority is to provide the most comprehensive consideration of passengers’ needs along with attention to detail at all stages of service.”

In 2018, Aeroflot took a number of measures to improve

punctuality, including strict implementation of boarding regulations and hand-luggage requirements. Plans including innovations based on the latest digital technologies, such as biometric controls, will significantly facilitate and accelerate pre-flight airport procedures for passengers in future.



About Aeroflot

Aeroflot is Russia's flagship carrier and a proud member of the SkyTeam global airline alliance. Aeroflot serves 152 destinations in 55 countries.

Aeroflot's 252-strong fleet is the youngest of any airline worldwide that operates more than 100 aircraft. In 2017, Aeroflot carried 32.8 million passengers (50.1 million passengers as Aeroflot Group including subsidiaries).

Aeroflot holds 4-Star Airline status from Skytrax and was named Best Airline in Eastern Europe for the seventh time at the 2018 Skytrax World Airline Awards. Aeroflot has also been awarded a five-star global airline rating by US aviation association APEX.

Aeroflot is the world's strongest airline brand according to leading brand strategy consultancy Brand Finance.

Find out more at <http://www.aeroflot.com/>



We are glad to inform you, that exhibition center ExpoGeorgia will host the 21th International Caucasus Tourism Fair – CTF 2019 on May 03-05, 2019.

In the frame of CTF 2019 we will host Caucasus MICE and HORECA Georgia exhibitions.

Exhibition is an international platform for Georgia's domestic, regional and international tourism development and always accompanied by entertaining events, presentations, B2B meetings and conferences.

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Vient de paraître : brochure compacte de Costa Croisières



Costa Croisières vient d'éditer une nouvelle brochure compacte pour le marché belge. Une douzaine de pages, il n'en faut pas plus pour résumer l'essentiel de l'offre de Costa.

Inspirer. Donner des idées. C'est l'objectif principal de cette **brochure**. Elle vous donne en quelques pages **un aperçu** des régions traversées par les croisières, **avec itinéraires et prix**.

Les personnes qui partent en croisière pour la première fois pensent souvent aux Caraïbes, aux îles grecques ou aux fjords norvégiens. Ou encore aux « États baltes », pour signifier en réalité la mer Baltique. Costa sait précisément ce que recherchent les voyageurs et a une réponse à leur donner. Mais la compagnie de croisière propose également toute une série de voyages moins connus, mais tout aussi exotiques, comme les Seychelles, Madagascar, le Sri Lanka, les Maldives, etc.

Costa Croisières vous donne le choix entre **trois types de tarifs**. Grâce à la présentation claire, vous voyez directement les avantages de l'une ou l'autre formule. Avec une explication de tout ce qui est compris dans le prix d'une

croisière. Quelle est par exemple la différence entre les restaurants standard et les restaurants de spécialités ? Faut-il payer pour assister à une représentation ?

Il est clair que Costa évolue vers encore plus de **vacances tout compris**. À partir d'avril, le forfait de séjour sera **compris** dans le prix du voyage. Plus de surprises à la fin de la croisière.

Une brochure conviviale. Dix secondes à feuilleter la brochure Costa, et l'intérêt du client s'éveille... Au lieu de proposer des calendriers compliqués, on vous indique les mois pendant lesquels la croisière est organisée. Le client souhaite plus d'informations ? Il peut s'adresser à son agence de voyages ou surfer sur le site web de Costa Croisières.

Plus d'infos : www.costacroisieres.be

Pobeda launches Milan Bergamo to St. Petersburg link



Having established operations at Milan Bergamo in December 2015, Pobeda has added to its successful Moscow Vnukovo service by launching direct flights to St. Petersburg from Italy's third largest airport.

Launched [11 October](#), the low-cost carrier will operate a three times weekly link between Milan Bergamo and Russia's second largest city, with the service poised to add an extra 27,000 seats to the Italian airport's winter schedules.

Along with the new St. Petersburg route, Pobeda will also

increase the number of flights it operates on its popular Moscow service. From the start of the winter season, commencing [28 October](#), the carrier will add an additional two weekly flights to its current daily schedule, adding a second daily rotation on Fridays and Sundays. [From 21 December](#), the airline will further commit to the marketing by adding an extra five weekly flights, resulting in a twice-daily service to the Russian capital.

Commenting on Pobeda's expansion, Giacomo Cattaneo, Director of Commercial Aviation, SACBO, says: "It is very encouraging to see that Pobeda has seen the greater potential of the Russian market from Milan Bergamo by adding this additional route to St. Petersburg, while further committing to the airport by increasing the frequency of its popular Moscow operation." Adding to this, Cattaneo states the strong ties that the local airport community has with St. Petersburg: "Russia's second largest city has strong links with this part of Italy. Giacomo Quarenghi, an architect born in the 18th century in a small village near Bergamo, was the foremost and most prolific practitioner of neoclassical architecture in Imperial Russia, particularly in St. Petersburg. He brought into vogue an original style of Palladian inspiration, which was a reference for many architects who worked in Russia. Some of his works in the city include the Hermitage Theatre, the Raphael Loggia in the Winter Palace, plus the Narva Triumphal Arch."



Director of the Information Business Centre of St. Petersburg in Milan, Yaroslav Meshavkin, added of the route: "The launching of this new aviation connection between Milan Bergamo and St. Petersburg demonstrates mutual business interest between one of the most European cities of Russia and the dynamic economy of Lombardia. Bergamo is a very interesting point as a destination in many aspects: touristic,

cultural, educational and others. For example, the higher education school of St. Petersburg and the University of Bergamo are involved in mutual projects.” Meshavkin also added: “The direct flight from St. Petersburg to Bergamo is a very fast and a comfortable way to get to Milan. Bus transfers from Bergamo Airport drive to the heart of the city and the trip takes around the same time as it does from other airports in Milan. It will be highly appreciated by business travellers as well as tourists.”

Russia is Milan Bergamo’s eighth largest country market this winter, with over 370,000 passengers having flown with Pobeda since the LCC commenced operations from the airport three years ago. A subsidiary of Russian flag carrier Aeroflot, Pobeda was founded in 2014, and presently operates a fleet of 22 737-800s configured in a 189-seat layout.

Budapest Airport welcomes winter with Myway Airlines



Budapest Airport has welcomed the start of the new winter season by celebrating the arrival of its latest airline partner, Myway Airlines [on 28 October](#). As the Georgian carrier launched the Hungarian gateway’s first link to Tbilisi, the

additional link to the Caucasus region boosts Budapest's connections to the cultural intersection of Europe and Asia.

Commenting at the launch, Kam Jandu, CCO, Budapest Airport stated: "To connect our two great cities is a fantastic endorsement of the opportunities which exist for both leisure and business travellers between Hungary and Georgia."



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