



News Release

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CHICAGO SELECTED AS 2014 HOST CITY FOR WORLD ROUTES DEVELOPMENT FORUM

CHICAGO – The Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) and the Chicago Convention & Tourism Bureau (CCTB) are pleased to announce that Chicago has been selected as the host city for the 20th World Routes Development Forum to be held in Chicago in September 2014.

The World Routes Development Forum is the largest global meeting of airline, airport and tourism authority stakeholders. This aviation industry event will bring more than 3,000 visitors to Chicago from the airline, airport and tourism industry to discuss matters related to commercial airline route development.

Rosemarie S. Andolino, CDA Commissioner, was joined by Mark Tunney, CCTB Senior Vice President, Convention Sales & Services; Jerry Roper, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce President and CEO; Mike Malik, Chief Commercial Officer, UBM Aviation / Routes; as well as representatives from World Business Chicago and the Illinois Restaurant Association, to make the announcement at McCormick Place, where the Forum will be held in 2014.

“We are thrilled that Chicago was selected to serve as the host city for the 20th World Routes Development Forum in September 2014,” said Andolino. “This event will provide tremendous tourism-related economic benefits to Chicago, along with the opportunity to showcase O’Hare and Midway International Airports to airline executives.”

“The 2014 Forum strategically aligns with the Bureau’s tourism marketing efforts and its overall plan of increasing international visitation to Chicago,” said Tunney. “It is an honor to showcase Chicago to a diverse group of buyers who have the potential to bring thousands of international visitors to our city and to position Chicago as a gateway destination for Illinois and the Midwest.”

Chicago’s McCormick Place is the largest conference facility in the Western Hemisphere. Chicago’s hotels will serve as official sites for Forum delegates and Chicago’s world-class attractions will support Forum tie-in activities and networking events.

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“The Chicago bid team did an excellent job of engaging its key stakeholders in supporting the bid for World Routes 2014,” said Malik. “The team was able to showcase what a fantastic city Chicago is to our selection team. Naming Chicago as a host of World Routes is strategically important for the Routes business, not only due to its beautiful city and state-of-the-art meeting facilities but also due to its excellent location. This will enable World Routes 2014 to have an increased attendance from the North American market and will ensure attendance from all other worldwide markets because of the global flight accessibility that Chicago’s airports offer.”

The World Route Development Forum began in 1995 and is organized by Routes, Inc., a subsidiary of UBM Aviation. The 2011 World Route Development Forum event will be held in Berlin, Germany on October 2-4. The Forum has experienced consistently strong growth in both attendance and prominence since its inception and currently brings together representatives from more than 300 airlines and 1,200 airports. The World Route Development Forum is now the world’s largest commercial air transport event.

“On behalf of the more than 2,000 corporate members of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, we are honored to be hosting the 2014 World Routes Conference,” said Roper. “As we look to continue Chicago’s dominance as a transportation hub, we will do all we can to make this a memorable and valuable event and an ongoing mission to increase the opportunities for our business community to better connect with the international market.”

The selection of Chicago as the host city represents the culmination of a process that began in late 2010. A close partnership between the CDA, CCTB, the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, World Business Chicago, and the Illinois Restaurant Association led the effort to pursue this opportunity. Chicago competed against other major international cities, and this selection serves as evidence of Chicago’s stature as a world-class destination.

Chicago’s two international airports currently provide nonstop service to over 30 countries in addition to a robust domestic network. Combined, O’Hare and Midway serve approximately 85 million passengers annually. Several international airlines have recently commenced or announced plans for new or additional services at Chicago’s airports. These airlines include Cathay Pacific Airways, Aeromexico and Copa Airlines at O’Hare and VivaAerobus and Volaris at Midway. The CDA and its City business partners continue to aggressively recruit potential new entrant carriers and work with airlines currently serving Chicago to enhance air service to the region. Hosting the Forum in 2014 is expected to further strengthen awareness of the Chicago market by airlines globally and thus serve as a catalyst for additional air service growth.

For more information on the World Routes Chicago 2014 Forum, please visit www.routeschicago2014.com.

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ABOUT THE CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION (CDA)

The Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) is self-supporting, using no local or state tax dollars for operations or capital improvements at O'Hare and Midway International airports. Together, Chicago's airports generate more than \$45 billion in annual economic activity and create 540,000 jobs for the region. Please visit www.flychicago.com to learn more about the Chicago Department of Aviation.

The O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP), overseen by the CDA, transforms O'Hare's airfield from an outdated system of intersecting runways into a modern parallel runway configuration. The program will reduce overall delays at the Airport by 79 percent, and bad weather delays by 95 percent. It will create 195,000 new jobs and \$18 billion in additional economic activity each year. Please visit www.oharemodernization.org to learn more about the OMP.

Since 2009, Chicago's airports have welcomed many new domestic and international passenger airlines. Those include low-cost carriers Iceland Express, Virgin America, Volaris and VivaAerobus (October 2011), network passenger carriers Etihad Airways, Cathay Pacific Airways and Copa Airlines (December 2011); and small community air service provider Air Choice One. New international cargo carriers include AirBridgeCargo Airlines, Qatar Airways Cargo and Yangtze River Express Airlines.

ABOUT UBM AVIATION

UBM Aviation is a leading provider of global aviation intelligence. We offer a unique portfolio of aviation products and services, through data, analytics, consulting services, events and media. We bring together buyers and sellers of air travel and transport, enabling the world's airlines and airports, and their customers and suppliers, to drive innovation in their business. No one else offers our depth and breadth of aviation intelligence.

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Editor's note: Photo attached. A higher resolution image is available upon request.

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Photo caption: On Wednesday, September 14, 2011, the Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) and the Chicago Convention & Tourism Bureau (CCTB) announced that Chicago was selected as the host city for the 20th World Routes Development Forum to be held in September 2014. The announcement was made at a news conference at the McCormick Place, West Building Conference Center. The following City, civic and business leaders attended the event (left to right) Shawn Kinder, Vice President, Ricondo and Associates; Aaron J. Gellman, Professor of Transportation and Management and Strategy, the Transportation Center, Northwestern University; Matt Danaher, Director of Airline and Industry Relations, CDA; David Causton, General Manager, McCormick Place; Daniel Lynch, Manager, Governmental Affairs, United Airlines; Rosemarie S. Andolino, Commissioner, CDA; Mike Malik, Chief Commercial Officer UBM Aviation/Routes; Ben Wolitz, Vice President, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce; Jerry Roper, President and CEO, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce; and Mark Tunney, Senior Vice President, CCTB, Convention Sales and Services.

Photo courtesy – Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA)/kp