

## Menzies Aviation and Oman Air plan partnership for ground handling at nine Omani airports

John Menzies plc is delighted to announce that Oman Air and Menzies Aviation have today taken a major step toward forming a joint venture partnership which will provide ground handling services at all airports across Oman.

The companies have signed a Memorandum of Understanding confirming their intention to work together. They will now enter a period of due diligence and focus on regulatory requirements, with the aim of forming the joint venture within the last quarter of 2016.

The move is the latest step by Oman Air towards reconfiguring its handling businesses. The joint venture will offer ground handling at nine airports across Oman, including Oman Air's key hub operation in Muscat. The venture will employ some 2,500 people and handle over 50,000 aircraft turnarounds per annum.

Forsyth Black, President and Managing Director at Menzies Aviation, said:

"We're very excited by the opportunity to work with Oman Air. This venture represents real progress against our strategy by securing a hub location and by expanding in emerging markets. There is a great tradition of co-operation between British and Omani partners; we hope to add this new joint venture to that list."

Oman Air's Chief Executive Officer, Paul Gregorowitsch, commented:

"We are pleased to have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Menzies Aviation which will see us form a joint venture partnership by the end of this year.

"Menzies Aviation is a highly professional, global company with a proven track record. Our partnership will enable us to access new technology, improve training and achieve the highest standards with regard to ground handling operations".

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#### About John Menzies plc

John Menzies plc is one of Scotland's largest companies. The group has two operating divisions, Menzies Aviation and Menzies Distribution. Both divisions operate in sectors where success depends on providing an efficient, high quality, time-critical service to their customers and partners. The company was established in 1833 and its head office is in Edinburgh. Today the company is an international business with operations worldwide.

Menzies Aviation is a leading global provider of passenger, ramp and cargo services. The Menzies Aviation business is highly successful, operating at 146 airports in 31 countries, with annual turnover in excess of £700 million and supported by a team of over 20,000 highly-trained people. Menzies Aviation serves over 500 customers, handling over 1.2 million flights and 1.7 million tonnes of cargo per annum. Customers include Air France/KLM, Alaska Airlines, Cathay Pacific, easyJet, Emirates, IAG, Lufthansa, Norwegian Air Shuttle, Thai Airways and United Airlines. Best in class safety and security is the division's number one priority each day and every day.

Menzies Distribution operates one of the largest overnight logistics networks in the UK, providing final mile delivery for around 110 million delivery units each year serving customers in the press, travel and third-party logistics sectors. From 42 sites across Britain and Ireland, a team of around 3,500 employees pick, pack and cross-dock clients' materials, driving 135,500 miles each day to bring them to their ultimate destination.

#### About Oman Air

Oman Air, the national carrier of the Sultanate of Oman, was founded in 1993 and has evolved into an acclaimed international luxury airline with an Official 4 Star Airline ranking from Skytrax. With a fleet of 40 aircraft flying to over 49 destinations across the Middle East, Europe, Asia and Africa, Oman Air's hospitality, comfort and space offer all customers a seamless passenger experience, whether they are travelling in First, Business or Economy Class. The airline is planning to boost its fleet strength to 57 by 2018 and 70 by 2020. Oman Air's commitment to quality and innovation has seen it pioneer inflight mobile phone and wi-fi connectivity and receive awards from prestigious organisations in the Middle East, Europe and Asia, including 'Best Business Class Seat in the World' at the Skytrax World Airline Awards 2011 & 2012, 'Leading Economy Class Airline Middle East' at the World Travel Awards 2013, and Gold Awards at the TravelPlus Airline Amenity Bag Awards in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013. Furthermore, Oman Air has won the 'Best Airline Staff Service Middle East' award 2014 & 2015 at the prestigious World Airline Awards run by Skytrax, and most recently during the World Travel Awards 2015, Oman Air was named 'World's Leading Airline Economy Class', also the Airline's lounge at Muscat International Airport won the 'World's Leading Airport Lounge Business Class' award.

[www.omanair.com](http://www.omanair.com)