

# Aer Lingus Group plc

ISE: EIL1

LSE: AERL

## Traffic statistics - September, 2006

Scheduled passengers increased by 6.4% on September 2005

Scheduled passengers up 8.2% year-to-date

**Dublin & London, 31 October, 2006:** Aer Lingus Group plc ("Aer Lingus"), an Irish low-cost, low-fares airline, providing both short-haul and long-haul passenger transportation services, today announced traffic statistics for the month of September, 2006.

### **Traffic Statistics for September, 2006**

In September 2006, scheduled passengers increased by 6.4% to 777,000 passengers carried, compared with 730,000 passengers carried in September 2005. However, this increase was negatively impacted by the terrorism alert in the UK in August 2006 which resulted in lower levels of advance passenger bookings for August, September and October 2006.

Short-haul passengers increased by 8.9%. Short-haul traffic measured in revenue passenger kilometres increased by 18.7% and passenger capacity measured in available seat kilometres increased by 22.0%. The short-haul passenger load factor was 80.0%, down 2.2 percentage points compared with September 2005.

Long-haul passengers decreased by 9.2%. Long-haul traffic measured in revenue passenger kilometres decreased by 9.2% and passenger capacity measured in available seat kilometres was unchanged. The long-haul passenger load factor was 72.8%, down 7.4 percentage points compared with September 2005.

### **Statistics for January to September, 2006**

For the nine months to September, 2006, scheduled passengers increased by 8.2% to 6,566,000 passengers carried, compared with 6,066,000 passengers carried in the same period in 2005.

Short-haul passengers increased by 10.6%. Short-haul traffic measured in revenue passenger kilometres increased by 20.8% and passenger capacity measured in available seat kilometres increased by 22.9%. The short-haul passenger load factor was 77.1%, down 1.4 percentage points compared with 2005.

Long-haul passengers decreased by 5.3% reflecting the discontinuation of the Orlando route and the negative impact of the terrorism alert in the United Kingdom in August 2006. Long-haul traffic measured in revenue passenger kilometres decreased by 5.9% and passenger capacity measured in available seat kilometres increased by 2.0%. The long-haul passenger load factor was 80.0%, down 6.7 percentage points compared with 2005.

## Detailed Traffic Statistics

<b>Aer Lingus Scheduled Traffic Statistics</b>						
	<b>September</b>			<b>January - September</b>		
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>Change %</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>Change %</b>
<b>Passengers (thousands)</b>						
Short-haul	688	632	8.9%	5,725	5,178	10.6%
Long-haul	89	98	-9.2%	841	888	-5.3%
Total	777	730	6.4%	6,566	6,066	8.2%
<b>RPKs (millions)</b>						
Short-haul	697	587	18.7%	5,580	4,621	20.8%
Long-haul	491	541	-9.2%	4,604	4,892	-5.9%
Total	1,188	1,128	5.3%	10,184	9,513	7.1%
<b>ASKs (millions)</b>						
Short-haul	871	714	22.0%	7,238	5,887	22.9%
Long-haul	674	674	0.0%	5,753	5,640	2.0%
Total	1,545	1,388	11.3%	12,991	11,527	12.7%
<b>Passenger load factor (%)</b>						
			<b>% points</b>			<b>% points</b>
Short-haul	80.0	82.2	-2.2	77.1	78.5	-1.4
Long-haul	72.8	80.3	-7.4	80.0	86.7	-6.7
Total	76.9	81.3	-4.4	78.4	82.5	-4.1

ENDS

Note: Detailed traffic statistics may be subject to change

### About Aer Lingus Group plc

Aer Lingus is an Irish low-cost, low-fares airline, providing both long-haul and short-haul passenger transportation services. Aer Lingus' low-cost, low-fares model is centred on maintaining low unit cost, offering one-way fares, maintaining effective fleet utilisation and developing the Aer Lingus brand. Consistent with this low-cost model, Aer Lingus' primary distribution channel is its website aerlingus.com. In 2005, approximately 71% of total passenger revenue was generated through aerlingus.com. Aer Lingus currently operates a fleet of 35 Airbus aircraft, 28 short-haul and 7 long-haul. Aer Lingus operates a single economy class on its short-haul routes including a maximum of 11 routes to the United Kingdom and 57 routes to Continental Europe, and a two-class service on its long-haul network, including a maximum of nine routes to the United States and one route to the United Arab Emirates.