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SriLankan Airlines joins oneworld

SriLankan Airlines became part of **oneworld** from May 1, offering the full range of services and benefits of the world's fastest growing and highest rated global airline alliance. It becomes the first carrier from the Indian subcontinent to join any of the global airline alliances - and completes **oneworld**'s biggest expansion programme since the alliance was launched 15 years ago. These landmarks are being celebrated today at a ceremony attended by the key ministers from Sri Lanka's government at

South Asia's newest international airport, Hambantota's Mattala Rajapaksa International, serving Sri Lanka's South and East Coasts and Hambantota's sea port. From midnight, the flag carrier of Sri Lanka will be flying alongside some of the world's leading carriers:

- Asia-Pacific's Cathay Pacific Airways, Japan Airlines, Malaysia Airlines and Australia's Qantas.
- From Europe, airberlin, British Airways, Finnair, Iberia and Russia's S7 Airlines.
- In the Middle East, Qatar Airways - the only one of the Big Three Gulf carriers to be part of any alliance - and Royal Jordanian.
- In North America, American Airlines and its US Airways merger partner.
- In South America LAN Airlines and its partner in LATAM Airlines Group, TAM Airlines.

SriLankan's first flight as part of oneworld will be UL318 departing from Colombo to the Kuala Lumpur hub of oneworld partner Malaysia Airlines at 7.45 am tomorrow (1 May). The airline's addition to oneworld will bring two new destinations on to the

alliance network - Hambantota itself plus India's Tiruchirapalli - along with its Colombo base as a new **oneworld** hub. With an extensive schedule serving southern India and as the leading international airline serving the Maldives, SriLankan also significantly strengthens **oneworld**'s presence throughout South Asia, one of the world's fastest growing regions for air travel demand. With SriLankan, **oneworld**:

- Serves almost 1,000 airports in 150 countries, with 14,250 daily departures.
- Carries more than 500 million passengers a year on a combined fleet of some 3,300 aircraft.
- Generates US\$ 140 billion annual revenues.
- Offers more than 600 airport lounges, including many frequently rated the as the world's best.

What it means for frequent flyers and



other customers

From 0001 Colombo time May 1, the 300,000 members of SriLankan's FlySmiles loyalty programme will, in effect, have their frequent flyer privileges extended to whenever they fly on **oneworld** member airlines - including earning rewards and tier status points plus the ability to redeem rewards for flights throughout the alliance network. Also from tonight, the 180 million members of the established **oneworld** airlines' frequent flyer ... **CONT ON P5**

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For further information Please contact:
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