

Star Alliance launches frequent flyer initiatives in Australia

August 7, 2002 Star Alliance frequent flyers in Australia now have the opportunity to earn 5,000 bonus miles every time they fly on a Star Alliance member airline departing from Australia.

The offer is being promoted by The airline network for Earth and is valid for all flights from Australia on Star Alliance carriers from August 7 until November 30, 2002.

The global alliance of some of the world's finest airlines is also extending a status match offer to Australian residents who are elite-level members of non-Star Alliance frequent flyer programs (FFP) and want equal status in a Star Alliance airline program. Their current gold or silver level status will be matched in one Star Alliance program of their choice, providing a fast track to the FFP benefits being offered by the first truly global airline alliance. These include special travel privileges enjoyed by Star Alliance Gold and Star Alliance Silver members.

The status match offer is available from August 7 through to the end of September, 2002.

Star Alliance remains a strong competitive alternative for international services to and from Australia, said Louise McKenven, Vice President, Loyalty & Marketing. Our member carriers Air Canada, Thai Airways International, Air New Zealand, United Airlines, Singapore Airlines and Lauda Air serve the continent with a total of 500 flights per week and connect into the Star Alliance network that spans the globe with coordinated flight schedules.

Star Alliance was established in May, 1997. The member airlines are Air Canada, Air New Zealand, All Nippon Airways – ANA, Austrian Airlines, bmi british midland, Lauda Air, Lufthansa German Airlines, Mexicana Airlines, SAS, Singapore Airlines, Thai Airways International, Tyrolean Airways, United Airlines and VARIG Brazilian Airlines.

Asiana Airlines of South Korea, LOT Polish Airlines and Spain's Spanair are scheduled to join Star Alliance in 2003. The future member carriers will further strengthen the Star Alliance network which currently serves 729 airports in 124 countries with almost 11,000 daily flights.

Detailed terms and conditions of the Star Alliance initiatives for Australia are available by visiting www.staralliance.com

