

**Star Alliance wins third award as 'Best Airline Alliance' for 2003**

New York, 19 November 2003 – Star Alliance, the airline network for Earth, won its third award of 2003 by being voted 'Best Airline Alliance', at the Best in Business Travel Awards sponsored by U.S.–based Business Traveler magazine.

Star Alliance received top billing among airline alliances based on the results of a survey conducted by independent research firm Mediamark Research Inc.. The results were unveiled today at a luncheon in New York's Plaza Hotel's Grand Ballroom, which was attended by 500 travel–industry executives and members of the press.

"It is an honour to win this award and gives us further confidence that we're living up to our commitment to provide international travellers unparalleled global access and a smooth travel experience," said Star Alliance chief executive officer Jaan Albrecht.

Earlier this year, Star Alliance received top airline alliance awards from Skytrax and U.K.–based Business Traveller magazine.

Star Alliance was established in 1997 as the first truly global airline alliance to offer customers global reach and a smooth travel experience. The members are Air Canada, Air New Zealand, ANA, Asiana Airlines, Austrian Airlines Group, bmi, LOT Polish Airlines, Lufthansa, Mexicana Airlines, SAS, Singapore Airlines, Spanair, Thai Airways International, United and VARIG Brazilian Airlines. US Airways is scheduled to join the alliance in 2004.