



## Star Alliance welcomes SWISS as its newest member More frequent flyer benefits and flight options for customers

ZURICH, SWITZERLAND – April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006 – At a ceremony held in Zurich today, Star Alliance, the airline network for Earth™, welcomed Swiss International Air Lines into the alliance as its 17<sup>th</sup> member. With immediate effect, customers travelling on flights operated by SWISS, will benefit from all the advantages which the members of the alliance offer. These include, among others, a network of more than 15,500\* daily flights serving 842\* destinations in 152\* countries, through check-in, mileage redemption and collection and access to more than 660\* lounges.

“With SWISS, our alliance has gained a high-quality airline with a strong brand. We now provide more choice to our customers, especially on key European and intercontinental business routes. Moreover, with Switzerland being the traditional base for many corporate clients, we look forward to offering our customer benefits to even more travellers than before,” said Jaan Albrecht, Star Alliance CEO.

“For SWISS, joining Star Alliance is a major strategic milestone,” said SWISS CEO Christoph Franz at the formal accession ceremony. “It creates a comprehensive network of air services and connections for our passengers that truly spans the globe. The co-branding of aircraft among Star Alliance members also helps to raise the awareness of the alliance and its benefits among our customers. And we are proud to carry the Star Alliance logo on our aircraft throughout our route network.”

With Zurich now being an alliance hub, Star Alliance offers flight connections through no less than 11 European hubs – Copenhagen, Frankfurt, London – Heathrow, Lisbon, Madrid, Manchester, Munich, Stockholm, Vienna, Warsaw and Zurich – more than any other alliance. In addition to its extensive European network, SWISS offers long-haul flights to key destinations in North and South America, Africa and Asia, complementing the existing network, and in some cases adding new destinations like Benghazi (Libya), Dar-es-Salaam (Tanzania), Douala and Yaounde (Cameroon) and Nairobi (Kenya).

# NEWS RELEASE

At Zurich Airport, First and Business Class customers flying on any Star Alliance member carrier as well as Star Alliance Gold Card holders now have the choice of using either the Star Alliance Lounge or the SWISS Lounge.

Members in SWISS' Frequent Flyer Programme Miles & More can now collect and redeem miles when travelling on flights operated by any of the other Star Alliance member carriers. The accumulated miles will also count towards their tier status – Star Alliance Gold and Star Alliance Silver – which entitles customers to a range of benefits across the alliance network.

Last, but not least, SWISS now participates in and sells the 11 different Star Alliance fare products, such as the Round the World fare, North American Airpass, the Brazilian Airpass, European Airpass, Asian Airpass, Visit Thailand Airpass and Visit Japan Airpass. Moreover, SWISS also offers the Star Alliance's conventions product, Conventions Plus, which provides travel solutions tailored to the needs of convention organisers and participants.

## About Star Alliance

Star Alliance was established in 1997 as the first truly global airline alliance to offer customers worldwide reach and a smooth travel experience. Star Alliance was voted Best Airline Alliance by Skytrax in 2003 and 2005. The members are Air Canada, Air New Zealand, ANA, Asiana Airlines, Austrian, bmi, LOT Polish Airlines, Lufthansa, Scandinavian Airlines, Singapore Airlines, South African Airways\*, Spanair, SWISS, TAP Portugal, THAI, United, US Airways and VARIG Brazilian Airlines. Regional member carriers Adria Airways (Slovenia), Blue1 (Finland) and Croatia Airlines enhance the global network. Overall, Star Alliance offers more than 15,500\* daily flights to 842\* destinations in 152\* countries.

## About SWISS

SWISS is Switzerland's national airline, serving 69 destinations around the world from its Zurich hub and from Basel and Geneva international airports with its 67-aircraft fleet. As member of Star Alliance and future part of the Lufthansa Group, SWISS will remain true to its mission of providing quality air services that link Switzerland with Europe and the world. SWISS will also continue to develop its service with its traditional values of quality, reliability and hospitality, and to develop its strong market presence as the Swiss national carrier.

\* Note: all figures include South African Airways who will become a Star Alliance Member on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006.