

CONNECT announces TBILISI as 2018 destination

Tuesday 20th – Thursday 22nd February 2018
The Silk Factory Studio, Tbilisi, Georgia

Lyon, 30th June 2017

Press Release: Immediate Release

The Airport Agency, creator of CONNECT, is delighted to announce that United Airports of Georgia, with the full support of the Georgian Government, will be hosting the 15th CONNECT event in Tbilisi, Georgia from 20th – 22nd February 2018.

Located at the crossroads between Europe and Asia, Georgia has emerged over the recent years as a premium tourism destination. A land of endless wonders, unspoilt by modern tourism and still retaining its authentic character, Georgia has been the cultural, educational and transportation center for the Caucasus region - with some of the famous trade routes like the Silk road. Its capital, Tbilisi is a singular city mixing ancient architecture and cultural centres with all amenities of modern lifestyle.

CONNECT in Georgia is expected to bring together over 500 aviation decision makers including more than 65 airlines and 250 represented airports to discuss current and future air transport links.

“More airline and airports are turning to CONNECT for a more relaxed networking event. The event delivers maximum results thanks to its less pressured and more productive setting” says Karin Butot, CEO of the Airport Agency “As a result, 95% of its attendees believe that CONNECT matches or exceeds their network planning expectations”.

“Tbilisi is a fabulous destination and a hidden treasure to many...it boasts fantastic tourism assets with a dynamic and forward-looking economy. It perfectly mirrors CONNECT's ethos as an open place to do business and CONNECT's growth as our event is attracting more airlines and airports from the Middle East and Asia” says Karin Butot.

Kate Aleksidze, CEO United Airports of Georgia says: "We are delighted to host 15th CONNECT in Georgia. Our country has recently become even closer to Europe with the introduction of visa-free travel, and the United Airports of Georgia will shortly be announcing additional capacity on a number of key European routes. We also want to showcase hidden gems and the untapped tourism potential of Georgia to the world and we will be delighted to treat CONNECT delegates to special preview tours to discover the unique beauty and treasures of Tbilisi. Our traditional Georgian hospitality will provide the perfect background for unlimited networking!"

[About United Airports of Georgia](#)

United Airports of Georgia is state-owned LLC under the umbrella of Ministry & Sustainable Development of Georgia. UAG owns all airports of Georgia and manages Kutaisi International Airport - The only low-cost airport in the region and Mestia & Ambrolauri Domestic Airports.

In 2016 airports of Georgia served 2,261,423 passengers showing a 26% increase compared to the previous year.

Airports of Georgia have 36 operating airlines with 50 international (17 European) and 4 domestic destinations.

[About CONNECT 2018](#)

THE ROUTE DEVELOPMENT EVENT THAT WORKS FOR AIRLINES, AIRPORTS AND INDUSTRY SUPPLIERS

From 20th – 22nd February 2018, CONNECT will be the focus for air service development, welcoming delegates for:

- Unlimited face to face meetings, managed by delegates themselves prior to the event
- The CONNECT conference, seminar and airline briefing programme
- The infamous social networking programme including evening functions, morning activities and weekend excursions

Taking place over 3 days, the CONNECT conference programme will bring together key figures from the industry to discuss and debate current and future aviation issues in a series of head-to-head interviews, keynote addresses and round table sessions. Route development and industry seminars provide key industry analysis and updates, and select airlines are also invited to give exclusive briefings, to give a full insight into company policy and learn how to adapt to current demand.

All face to face meetings at CONNECT are at no extra cost and are available to all attending delegates. Companies have complete flexibility over their event diary, with extended airline and airport networking lounges and the CONNECT support team available before, during and after the event.

For more information about CONNECT visit: www.connect-aviation.com

For all press inquiries email: press@connect-aviation.com