

**Early registrations from airlines show great interest for next year's CONNECT Route  
Development Forum**

**Wednesday 5th – Friday 7th June 2019**

**Cagliari, Sardinia**

For immediate release

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Early airline registrations are showing heightened interest in the next year's CONNECT Route Development Forum, taking place in Cagliari, Sardinia in Italy from 5th – 7th June 2019.

Over 600 senior network managers and aviation professionals will be meeting for the 16<sup>th</sup> CONNECT event in the glorious Bastione de Saint Remy to discuss their future route development plans.

“Each year more airlines are turning to CONNECT for a friendly platform to create new business. With less pressure and a more relaxed approach, the event delivers maximum results due to the relevant attendees and effective meeting system” says Karin Butot, CEO of the Airport Agency, CONNECT creator and organiser. “Whilst our event continues to grow, our focus remains on maintaining a personal approach and a unique experience”.

Hosted by Cagliari Airport and Sardinia Tourism, CONNECT will showcase Cagliari as a year-long holiday destination by showing its best elements through excursions and evening receptions. “Hosting the 2019 edition of CONNECT is a great honour for us”, confirms Alberto Scanu, CEO of Cagliari Airport. “The CONNECT event will put us in a unique spotlight to create countless opportunities for the enhancement of Sardinia as a tourist destination. We are very excited about the registration of these first airlines and are very much looking forward to the next announcements.”

CAG currently handles 50% of the total regional air traffic. Last year, the airport recorded the highest international traffic growth among all Italian airports with an increase of 38%. The strategy development of the airport aims to continue its expansion with a well-balanced portfolio of airlines and destinations, currently constituted by over 40 carriers and 78 destinations of which 55 are international.

Airlines already confirmed include: Titan Airways, TUI, Atlas Global, Atlas Air, Air France, LOT Polish, Ernest, Air Malta, Germania, Air Baltic, Iberia Express, Aer Lingus, Laudamotion, Air Corsica, ASL Ireland, Swiss International Air Lines, Vueling, La Compagnie, Stobart Air, Voyage Air, BMI Regional, Blue Panorama and Air Italy...

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

From 5th – 7th June, CONNECT will be the focus for air service development, welcoming delegates for a total networking experience:

- Unlimited face to face meetings, managed in the Delegate Account by delegates themselves prior to the event
- The CONNECT conference programme, with industry and airline briefings as well as insightful panel discussions
- The social networking programme including evening functions, coffee breaks, morning activities and 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 speeches and round table discussions. 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](http://www.connect-aviation.com)

For all press inquiries email: [press@connect-aviation.com](mailto:press@connect-aviation.com)