

**CONNECT announces
CAGLIARI as 2019 destination
Wednesday 5th – Friday 7th June 2019**

Bastione di Saint Remi, Cagliari

For immediate release

Lyon, 19th April 2018

The Airport Agency, creator of CONNECT, is delighted to announce that Cagliari Airport and Sardinia Tourism will be hosting the 16th CONNECT Route Development Forum in Cagliari, Sardinia in Italy from 5th – 7th June 2019.

CONNECT in Cagliari is expected to bring together over 600 airlines, airports and tourism decision-makers to discuss current and future air transport links. The forum continues to grow and is attracting new territories each year, marking itself as a crucial event in the aviation calendar for generating new business. 2019 will see a new format delivered on one ground level in a city centre venue for easy access to all elements of the event.

“More airline and airports are turning to CONNECT for a unique networking event. The event delivers maximum results with minimum pressure and offers an extremely productive format” says Karin Butot, CEO of the Airport Agency, CONNECT creator and organizer. “We dedicate ourselves to providing a relaxed, stress-free environment with unlimited networking opportunities. As a result, over 95% of our attendees state that CONNECT matches or exceeds their network planning expectations”.

“Cagliari is a fabulous destination and offers the best in traditional Italian culture, fresh cuisine, and gorgeous weather” says Karin Butot. “This vibrant capital city and its airport act as the gateway to the stunning island of Sardinia – a true jewel of the Mediterranean.”

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.

“Hosting the 2019 edition of CONNECT is a great honor for us”, confirms Alberto Scanu, CEO of Cagliari Airport. “The CONNECT event will give a unique international spotlight and create countless opportunities for the enhancement of Sardinia as a tourist destination.”

“The island of Sardinia has now proved to be ready to accommodate important volumes of tourists in all seasons; we can compete with the main international players on the leisure market on a global scale, introducing new elements for the development of leisure and business traffic throughout the year ” says Gabor Pinna, Chairman of Cagliari Airport.

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:

- 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 infamous social networking programme including evening functions, morning activities and excursions

Taking place over 2.5 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

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