



United Teams with Airservices Australia to Save Fuel and Aid Environment

Australia, Sydney, 14 November, 2008 – United Airlines and Airservices Australia will today demonstrate how next-generation technologies could save more than 15,000 litres of fuel and cut up to 19,000 kg of carbon emissions on a single, trans-Pacific flight.

As part of the Asia and South Pacific Initiative to Reduce Emissions (ASPIRE), United flight 870 will fly from Sydney to San Francisco on 14 November, departing at 4:15pm, and will use up to the minute fuel data, priority takeoff clearance, the opening up of restricted airspace and new arrival procedures – all of which are possible with new technology – to generate significant fuel and emissions savings.

Airservices Australia Chief Executive Officer, Greg Russell, said that, "What this perfect flight demonstrates is an innovative approach to the management of air travel across three areas - improving efficiency en-route, reducing delay on arrival in the terminal airspace and an efficient descent onto the runway."

Prior to departure, United will evaluate flight data and will file a preferred route that is most efficient for weather conditions. After reaching cruising altitude, United Captain Tom Spratt may alter his flight path, which is usually not possible with today's technology, to take advantage of updated weather conditions. Ninety minutes from San Francisco, Captain Spratt will request a special arrival procedure, developed by United and Boeing to generate additional fuel savings with a smooth, continuous descent rather than the traditional step-down approach.

"Next-generation technology and the modernisation of our air traffic control system could save billions of pounds of carbon emissions every year. United is pleased to partner with Airservices Australia and provide important data from ASPIRE to demonstrate these savings," says Alison Espley, United Airlines' General Manager, Australia and New Zealand.

Data from the flight will be analysed by NASA, Airservices Australia and the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, in their ongoing effort to accelerate the development and implementation of new operational ground systems and pilot procedures to reduce the environmental footprint for all phases of flight.

The United ASPIRE Flight is the third in a series of demonstration flights developed by the ASPIRE multilateral partnership, comprising Airservices Australia, Airways New

Zealand and the United States Federal Aviation Administration, with the objective of facilitating the development of modern air traffic control systems and finding a global solution to environmental issues. Hank Krakowski, Chief Operating Officer of the US Federal Aviation Administration, will follow proceedings at first hand, joining the flight for its ground-breaking journey to San Francisco.

United Airlines General Manager, Alison Espley, today welcomed the initiative, saying, “Working with key industry partners such as Airservices Australia provides United with the opportunity to benchmark and measure environmental performance and ultimately to make commercial air travel more environmentally sustainable.”

Outcomes of today’s United Airlines ASPIRE flight will be released via the ASPIRE website, www.aspire-green.com.

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