

## **Flybe announces new Birmingham Headquarters and First Crew Base**

One of Britain's newest commercial airlines in several decades, Flybe Ltd, has today announced that Birmingham Airport will be its new company headquarters and first new crew base.

Amongst one of the first UK airlines to be certified by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) since Brexit, Flybe will serve key regions across the UK and EU with operations scheduled to begin in early 2022. Birmingham Airport's Diamond House will be the location of the company's new HQ and Operations Centre, in a move that is expected to create approximately 200 direct\* new jobs in the Birmingham and West Midlands region over the next three years, with an estimated additional 400 direct jobs to be created nationwide during that same time frame.

Flybe CEO Dave Pflieger said: "We are thrilled to be partnering with Birmingham Airport (BHX), the City of Birmingham, and the Mayor of West Midlands to make BHX the location of our new headquarters and first crew base. It was an ideal choice for us due to its great people and highly skilled workforce, its central UK location, and the fact that Birmingham Airport is a global travel hub where local and connecting customers have access to over 150 worldwide destinations. Today's announcement marks the culmination of over 12 months of dedicated hard work by all involved, and it would not have been possible without the support of the CAA and the UK Government."

Andy Street, Mayor of West Midlands, said: "It really is such brilliant news that Flybe is coming back as a commercial airline, and even better that it has chosen Birmingham to house its new headquarters.

"Not only does this mean better domestic and international connectivity for our region as well as local jobs and opportunities being created here, but it's yet another show of faith in the West Midlands with businesses choosing to commit to our region as we recover from the pandemic.

"Flybe's choice highlights the strength of the aerospace sector in the West Midlands and the talent pool available, and I wish Dave and his team all the very best ahead of their official launch early next year."

Nick Barton, Chief Executive, Birmingham Airport, added: "Flybe's announcement that Birmingham has been chosen to become the headquarters for its launch next spring is fantastic news for our region's connectivity needs, and it will bring with it some great new employment opportunities. Dave's vast experience in managing start-up airlines and turnaround situations, coupled with the recovery of the Midlands' economy post-Covid, means that Flybe's return to the skies from Birmingham is a shot in the arm for our airport as well as West Midlands businesses and communities. We look forward to working with Dave and his team in preparation for next spring and to launch such a well-known brand here in Birmingham."

The launch of Flybe is expected to not only enhance essential regional connectivity in the UK and create many valuable airline industry jobs, but also help restart many local economies as they rebound from the pandemic. This, in turn, should contribute to additional growth in the Midlands and assist with new and ongoing efforts to level-up the country.

Pflieger added that "I also want to emphasise that a key area of focus from day one for Flybe will be environmental sustainability and ensuring we do everything possible to reduce our carbon footprint

and GHGs. Our entire fleet will be comprised of the De Havilland DHC-8-400, which is a fast turboprop powered aircraft that can complete short journeys almost as quickly as a regional jet, but with lower CO2 emissions. In addition, we will also be partnering with local community charities and partners who are focused on the environment as well as other causes which align with our corporate goals and values.

“As for what’s next, please stay tuned. We plan to provide more information in the coming weeks and months about ticket prices, new routes and destinations, and other important news that will help customers visit loved ones, get away for a weekend, and get out on business trips. This is an incredibly exciting time for us, and we look forward to sharing more updates in the future.”

Today’s news follows the April 2021 sale of the business and assets of Flybe Ltd (in Administration, now renamed FBE Realisations Ltd) to Thyme Opco Limited (now renamed Flybe Limited).

\*Based on industry data, it is estimated that an additional two indirect and induced jobs are created for every direct airline job.

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**Notes to Editors:**

**About Flybe Limited**

Established in April 2021, Flybe Limited is a British commercial airline which will operate throughout the UK and EU. Operations are scheduled to take place from early 2022, with the launch playing a crucial role in connecting the regions and communities across the UK whilst creating valuable industry jobs.