



MEDIA RELEASE

CELEBRATIONS AS AER ARANN AND AER LINGUS COMBINE TO BRING NEW ROUTES TO SHANNON

Monday 31st May: Aer Arann and Aer Lingus today announced four new routes to the UK from Shannon in Phase Two of the airlines franchise agreement. The announcement comes just two months after the launch of franchise operations from Dublin and Cork.

From July 1st, Aer Lingus Regional, operated by Aer Arann, will provide direct flights to Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow and Bristol from Shannon Airport. Flights to Manchester and Glasgow will operate seven days per week, while Bristol and Birmingham will operate every day except Saturdays. Flights can be booked on www.aerlingus.com and are on sale from Wednesday 2nd June with fares starting at €39.99 one way including taxes.

This latest announcement has been welcomed in the Midwest as a boost for the Midwest region with the new services offering direct access both to and from busy UK centres.

Announcing the new routes in Shannon Airport today, Aer Arann Chief Executive Paul Schütz said “We are delighted to launch the second phase of our franchise operations with Aer Lingus in Shannon where we know there has been a strong demand for new UK direct services. We are providing a unique product that combines the best of both Aer Arann and Aer Lingus and offers both business and leisure passengers a quality service with excellent frequency”.

“In launching these routes we are responding to calls from the business and tourism sectors in the region and we plan to work with them to ensure the success of these routes and having achieved that to grow our presence in Shannon and to develop more new routes in the future”, he continued.

Also commenting on the announcement, Stephen Kavanagh, Chief Commercial Officer at Aer Lingus said Aer Lingus Regional services have enjoyed strong support from customers in the short time since their launch. Aer Lingus welcomes the introduction of these additional services from Shannon and wishes Aer Arann continued success.”

In welcoming the news on behalf of the Shannon Airport Authority, Airport Director Martin Moroney said “we are delighted to welcome the Aer Arann and Aer Lingus franchise to Shannon. These new services will provide essential UK regional connectivity to Shannon. The establishment of sustainable air-services is our top priority and in this regard the UK market is of very high importance. We wish Aer Lingus Regional every success in the future and look forward to working with their team in developing their business for all our benefit”.

Also present at the launch was Minister for Defence and Clare TD Mr. Tony Killeen who outlined the importance of the new services for the region: "I warmly welcome today's announcement by Aer Arann, Aer Lingus and Shannon Airport Authority. This is a significant boost for Shannon and for the connectivity of the Mid-west region as a whole. It's a real vote of confidence.

It opens new opportunities for business and makes the region more competitive and attractive for investment. Overall this is a very positive development and I congratulate everyone involved in Aer Arann, Aer Lingus and Shannon Airport Authority for making this happen".

Mayor of Clare Mr. Tony Mulcahy echoed this statement saying "We are delighted to welcome the Aer Arann and Aer Lingus franchise operation to Shannon. We are very appreciative of the announcement about the addition of four new routes today, which will help in driving long term sustainability in the region.

The county Board is hugely supportive of the routes and we look forward to a long and profitable association with both airlines going forward".

Under the franchise agreement between the two airlines Aer Lingus Regional flights are operated by Aer Arann using its own ATR 72 aircraft and crew. All franchise flights are sold and distributed through www.aerlingus.com. Aer Arann assumes full operational and commercial responsibility for the services covered by the franchise agreement with Aer Lingus receiving a franchise fee.

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