



# MALTA TO ESTABLISH A NEW NATIONAL AIR CARRIER

News / Airlines



**The Government of Malta announced the establishment of a new national carrier which will commence operations on 31 March 2024 when Air Malta closes down after 50 years of operation. This follows the ratification by the Maltese parliament of a five-year business plan which outlines the strategic roadmap for the establishment of a new national carrier for the island nation. A national carrier is recognised as a critical part of Malta economy, ensuring reliable year-round connectivity between the island nation and mainland Europe, while simultaneously building up the country's aviation infrastructure, which is vital not only to tourism, but to the economic growth, development and diversification of Malta.**

The Executive Chairman of Air Malta appointed Knighthood Global, to develop the business plan, initiating a comprehensive planning process and complex negotiations with the EU to find a way

forward after successive attempts to resuscitate and reposition Air Malta over two decades were unsuccessful. The five-year business plan is based around two key drivers – a robust network of key destinations and a modern, fuel-efficient fleet. The plan outlines what the commercial mix based on strong, should customer centric proposition should comprise. This can only be delivered by an engaged committed workforce. In this regard, the government has taken a number of critical measures to lay the foundations for a workforce of the right size and shape.

James Hogan, Chairman of Knighthood Global, said: “This is a great day for Malta and its aviation industry. We are very proud to have supported the development of the plan, which has now been ratified by the Maltese parliament marking a new milestone in the history of aviation in Malta. In a complex process of strategic business planning and negotiations we worked collaboratively on the ground with the Executive Chairman of Air Malta, the government, and the European Commission and to shape a new future-proof airline that will enhance the country’s business environment and ensure its global competitiveness. We strongly believe that Malta can re-establish a sustainable and proud airline to serve all segments of the market. This is a realistic and exciting roadmap for the future of aviation in Malta. The successful implementation of this plan and the establishment of a sound airline business will be good for Malta, its people and its economy. It will also enhance the nation’s future opportunities for aviation development and economic growth.

**For further information relating to the New Airline Announcement, click here <https://bit.ly/3ZG66sF>**



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