

Media release

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Airservices and Cathay Pacific collaborate to reduce aviation impact on the environment

Airservices will play a major role demonstrating air traffic management environmental best practice by assisting Cathay Pacific, under the Asia and Pacific Initiative to Reduce Emissions (ASPIRE) program, conduct four flights across the globe, two of those through Australian airspace on the one day.

Today Cathay Pacific will have one flight from Hong Kong to Melbourne and one to Sydney. It will be the first time two ASPIRE demonstration flights have been undertaken in Australia at the one time. Simultaneously, Cathay Pacific will undertake two ASPIRE demonstration flights to Anchorage and San Francisco.

ASPIRE is a joint venture focused on lessening the environmental impact of aviation across Asia and the Pacific through the promotion of best practice in improved air traffic management.

Airservices Executive General Manager Air Traffic Control, Greg Hood said, "Airservices, in cooperation with other air navigation service providers, will demonstrate efficiencies that can be achieved by initiating less air traffic navigation constraints, as far as is practicable.

"ASPIRE demonstrates that when several efficient air traffic procedures are integrated and applied to flights, we see the potential for reductions in delays, fuel usage and emissions.

"These procedures will become a new standard for air traffic services," Mr Hood said.

Cathay Pacific's Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Ivan Chu said, "We are excited to partner with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and aviation authorities across the Pacific to conduct the first multi-destination demonstration green flights under the ASPIRE program..

"The Cathay Pacific demonstration flights will employ a series of gate-to-gate efficiency measures while operating within the existing constraints of the air traffic control systems to highlight the potential for real reduction in fuel burn and CO2 emissions on a daily basis."

The ASPIRE program illustrates the advances in all areas of aviation as the industry heads towards the 100 year anniversary of the first commercial flight.

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