

Pegasus partners

TURKISH LOW-FARE carrier Pegasus Airlines has added Budget car rentals as a partner in its ancillary revenue service.

The carrier has also signed a deal with leading Turkish consumer products company Beko, which involves the latter's branding being carried on one of the airline's Boeing 737s.



Jazeera to offer OnAir in-flight comms

JAZEERA AIRWAYS IS TO PROVIDE its passengers with OnAir's in-flight mobile phone services, including voice, SMS and GPRS, starting later this year. The service will enable passengers to use their mobile phones and BlackBerry-type devices to send and receive text messages

and emails, including attachments, and to make and receive mobile phone calls in flight.

The airline's six Airbus A320s will be retrofitted with OnAir equipment; the carrier also has 34 further A320s on order, which will be line-fitted.

Mobile OnAir will allow unlimited text messages and emails, including attachments, to be received and sent, and will allow up to 12 simultaneous voice calls. A central feature of the service is the crew's ability to turn it off at any time, or switch it to 'silent' (text and e-mail only) mode.



Tropic Air and Cessna executives watch Steve Schulte, CEO Tropic Air (front left), and Tracy Cassil, SVP Cessna Finance, sign the deal.

Tropic Air's major investment

TROPIC AIR OF BELIZE has announced a BZ\$40 million investment in the airline industry of Belize. The venture involves an accelerated expansion programme to serve the increasing market of airline passengers and cargo better within Belize. This will entail the complete replacement of Tropic Air's fleet of Cessna Caravans over the next five years, together with the addition of further aircraft.

Mesa fights Delta's contract plans

MESA AIR GROUP IS CHALLENGING DELTA AIR LINES' DECISION to try to terminate the Delta Connection Agreement between Delta, Mesa Air Group and the Group's wholly owned subsidiary, Freedom Airlines, signed on 3 May 2005. Delta is seeking to end the Connection Agreement as a result of Freedom's alleged failure to maintain a specified completion rate with respect to its ERJ 145 Delta Connection flights during three months of the six-month period September 2007 to February 2008.

Until a final decision is made, Freedom is continuing, under a temporary agreement, to provide Delta Connection services. The proposed termination does not affect Freedom's CRJ900 Delta Connection flying.

Mesa denies that there is any basis for Delta's proposal, saying that the alleged

failure to maintain the specified completion rate in the contract is due to Delta's own request of Mesa to remove flights to benefit Delta's overall operation and/or to accommodate Delta mainline flights. These flights, among others, have always been taken out of Freedom's performance calculations in the past, says Mesa, and Delta acted in a way "consistent with this practice and has paid Mesa both its base margin and its incentive margin after crediting Mesa for the Delta-mandated schedule changes and/or cancellations".

Mesa Air Group has stated that it appreciates Delta's desire to reduce capacity, as publicly announced on 18 March 2008, "but to do so unilaterally and in patent violation of their contract is not acceptable".