



**Azerfon and AZAL will be the first operators in CIS to launch full range of mobile communication services on aircraft**

***First 3G provider of Azerbaijan, Azerfon, and Azerbaijan Airlines (AZAL) have agreed with OnAir, the world's leading inflight connectivity provider, to launch the full range of mobile communication services on 15 AZAL aircraft***

**Geneva, Switzerland, 5 January 2012** – First 3G operator Azerfon and Azerbaijan Airlines have announced their plans to launch the full range of mobile communications services on 15 AZAL aircraft, 11 Airbus and 4 Boeing. This will be possible as a result of an exclusive agreement with OnAir, the world's leading inflight connectivity solution provider. The pilot project was announced for the first time in BakuTel2011 Expo. When commercially launched later this year, Azerfon customers will be able to use mobile and data services during flights. These include voice, text and data communications allowing passengers to communicate while on-board with their colleagues, friends and families in the same way they do on the ground.

“Azerfon, being the most innovative and transparent mobile operator, is extremely proud of partnering with OnAir to present the project for mobile connectivity services on AZAL aircraft. Azerfon has a tradition of pioneering innovative telecom solutions in Azerbaijan. For the first time in the telecom history of not only Azerbaijan, but of CIS region as well, we will provide our customers with unique opportunity of staying connected even on air. Our valued customers will be able to call, text and surf the internet using our services. This is another breakthrough for Azerbaijan's telecom industry, thanks to Azerfon”, said CEO of Azerfon, Mr. Jurgen Peetz.

“As the National Aviation Carrier, AZAL is very pleased to announce the introduction of mobile communication services on our aircraft. We look forward to launching these services in partnership with national operator Azerfon and the leading global inflight connectivity services provider OnAir. This will be the first innovation of its kind in communication and aviation not only in Azerbaijan,

but also in the region. Only AZAL's passengers will be able to use mobile services on board. This new technology is absolutely secure and is approved by the appropriate regulatory authorities." – said Mr. Jahangir Asgerov, the President of Azerbaijan Airlines Joint Stock Company.

It should be noted that the technical solution for this project is provided by OnAir, the inflight connectivity provider established and owned by SITA (the leading IT solutions provider for air transport) and Airbus (the leading aircraft manufacturer). Today, OnAir has over 35 announced customers worldwide, on five continents, including Aeroflot, Emirates, Qatar Airways, Singapore Airlines, TAM among others.

Ian Dawkins, CEO of OnAir, said, "This is an important milestone for OnAir. The expansion of our services to Azerbaijan, and ultimately other CIS countries, further cements our position as the global inflight connectivity services provider, offering the widest geographical reach."

Customers of Nar Mobile and Azerfon-Vodafone will be able to use these services as soon as the technical tests are completed by Azerfon and AZAL. Mobile communications services including 2.5G internet will be available during the entire flight except for landing and take-off. Roaming charges will apply for such services.

**-ends-**

### **About OnAir**

OnAir provides industry-leading, on-board connectivity solutions that enable passengers to stay connected while they travel, and airlines and shipping lines to differentiate themselves through offering distinct services to customers. Present aboard airlines on five continents, OnAir provides the only air-travel industry sponsored solution for commercial airlines, private and corporate jets, Airbus and Boeing aircraft, and for long and short-haul flights. OnAir is the first provider of services based on SwiftBroadband, the latest high-bandwidth satellite technology from Inmarsat, which offers GSM, Mobile Data and Internet.

OnAir was incorporated in February 2005 and is owned by SITA, the leading IT solutions provider to the air transport world and Airbus, the leading aircraft manufacturer. OnAir is a member of the GSM Association and an Inmarsat Distribution Partner for SwiftBroadband services.



In September 2011, Oman Air won the APEX Best Inflight Connectivity and Communications Award for its OnAir connectivity services.

Today OnAir has 37 customers, of which 20 are currently in service, including 12 airlines. The company also has regulatory approvals from 77 countries and roaming agreements covering more than 2.2 billion GSM subscribers.

More information about OnAir is available at [www.onair.aero](http://www.onair.aero)

**For further information (not for publication):**

Aurélie Branchereau-Giles  
Head of PR and Communications  
Tel: +41 22 747 6360  
E-mail: aurelie.branchereau@onair.aero