



Athens, April 10, 2012

## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### 7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL AVIATION CONFERENCE "PRESENT & FUTURE"

#### Safety and Security Regulations

#### Investment Opportunities in Greece

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference "**AVIATION: PRESENT AND FUTURE**" was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April, 2012, in Athens, Greece under the aegis of the Hellenic Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks. The conference was organised by iForce Communications S.A. in collaboration with the "Pan-Hellenic Union of Pilots and Flight Crew of the Security Forces and Public Sector of Greece" (P.E.I.P.S.A.D.Y) and the "Air Accident Investigation & Aviation Safety Board" of the Hellenic Government.

A VIP delegation from Qatar attended the conference including the **CEO of Qatar Airlines Mr. Akbar Al Baker** and the Chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority of Qatar, **H.E. Abdul Aziz Al Noaimi**, who also greeted the conference. A meeting during the conference with **Minister of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks Mr. Makis Voridis** re-established the strong relations between the two countries in the aviation sector and assured for further growth. Furthermore a large Russian delegation gave a strong presence with speaker **Mr. Valery Lunkov**, Sales Director of Civil Aviation Division of **IRKUT Corp.** Delegates from **Qatar, Turkey, Russia, Ukraine, Israel, Spain, Albania, France, USA, Greece** and **Cyprus** attended the conference.

The conference had the following two topics: "**Safety and Security Regulations**" and "**Investment Opportunities in Greek Aviation sector**". More than 250 delegates and foreign guests, including the CEO's of the main Greek companies from airline and aerospace, Hellenic Civil Aviation Authority Leadership, representatives of major foreign Embassies and Trade Chambers, students from the Greek aviation schools and specialised journalists, came together to discuss the

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major industry trends, risks and opportunities, existing in the aviation sector nowadays. More than 20 expert speakers presented their knowledge, experience and ideas on the aviation sector in Greece and its trends.

In the opening of the conference **Mr. Fokion Zaimis**, the President and CEO of iForce Communications S.A., stated that “due to the financial crisis, our country suffers from negative publicity. Today, we all joined forces so we can change this negative image and develop our economy. In this direction the aviation sector has much to offer. The privatization of our regional airports, the adaptation of our legislation according to international standards and the market economy, the European funds for the airport infrastructure, but mainly the attraction of local and foreign investors are some of the conference’s priorities. All this is based in an environment of safety and security in transports that our country ensures at the highest level.”

**Mr. John Siriopoulos**, Major, President of P.E.I.P.S.A.D.Y., pointed out that “the main success of the conference can be proved by the fact that the findings of the conferences held in the past years are taken into consideration by the government while developing new policies regarding aviation sector.” He added that “such events help us to share experience between the companies across the sector and therefore to forecast and/or influence the future policy in aviation sector.”

**Mr. Makis Vouridis**, Minister of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks, presented in his speech his government’s commitment to the Aviation Privatization Program. He stressed that the Program takes into consideration all aspects of transportation, including transportation logistics. An efficient and well-integrated national transport strategy therefore would help to boost the investments in Greek Aviation sector lifting the Greek Economy as well.

As the Greek government announced a wide range privatization programme, aimed at leveraging private investment to help restructuring and developing the Greek economy, **new business opportunities arise**. Greece has 45 operational airports that present great Investment Opportunities especially since Greece accepts every year more than 19 million foreign visitors.

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The conference was coordinated by **Mr. Alexandros Moz**, Journalist and the closing remarks were given by **Mr. Panagiotis Neufelt**, Aviation Specialist.

The main aim of the conference was not only to come up with the scientific results, but also to provide guests with the possibility **to build up important international BUSINESS relationships**. This goal was successfully achieved thanks to the carefully thought-out organisation of the conference, since the delegates could not only be present on the conference, but also effectively discuss cooperation issues in-person in VIP private rooms.

Speakers included :

**Georgios Bassoulis**, Lieutenant General ret. Hellenic Air Force, Aeronautical Engineer MSc., Chairman, Air Accident Investigation and Aviation Safety Board, **Dimitris Demagos**, Airport Eng.-Planner, Msc Airport Planning and Mgt B.Gen. ret. HAF, **Adonis Georgiadis**, ex v. Minister of Maritime Affairs, Islands and Fisheries, **Vassilis Ierapetritis**, Civil Eng.,sc Airport Planning & Mgt, General Manager of VIA AIR Consulting, **Kostas Machairas**, President of Didavia Aviation Academy, **Alexandros Moz**, Journalist, Member of E.S.D.P.A, A.E.J. and I.F.J., **John Siriopoulos**, Major, President of Union of Pilots and Flight Crew of the Security Forces and Public Sector of Greece (P.E.I.P.S.A.D.Y), **Stelios Stipidis**, Sales Manager, Cofely GDF SUEZ , **Fokion Zaimis**, President, iForce Communications SA, **H.E. Abdul Aziz Al Noaimi**, Chairman, Qatar Civil Aviation Authority, **Makis Voridis**, Minister of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks, Hellenic Government, **Stelios Konsolakis**, Deputy Governor, Civil Aviation Authority, **Prof. Nikitas Nikitakos**, Professor at the University of the Aegean and Research Associate of KEMEA, Ministry of Citizen Protection, **Panagiotis J. Georgiadis**, Colonel FP rsv Hellenic Air Force, Kavala Air Show O & FD Director, **Sergios Labropoulos**, General Secretary of co-funded public projects Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks, **Georgios Kallimassias**, Corporate Planning Director, Athens International Airport, **Athanassios Matzoros**, Head of Planning & Evaluation Unit, Int. Managing Authority for Transport, **Valery Lunkov** Sales Director of Civil Aviation Division, Irkut Corporation, **Constantinos Machairas**, DIDAVIA, Managing Director, **George Mamalakis** IATA Greece Project and Sales.

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The conference was sponsored by **SWISSPORT SA** and the following companies: Athens International Airport "Eleftherios Venizelos", CIEL AIRLINES, DIDAVIA, KLEOS, KERPINI PUBLICATIONS, BoConcept, LAVAZZA, Hellenic Aerospace Industry, Vasilis Zoulias Haute Couture and by the following media sponsors: "KERDOS" newspaper, Flight and Space magazine and Aviation News.

Conference Languages: GREEK AND ENGLISH

Conference Material: DVD upon request, 299 euros + mail expenses

Conference Cost: Free admittance by registration only

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(H.E. Abdul Aziz Al Noaimi greets the conference)

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(from left: F. Zaimis, Al Noaimi, M. Vouridis, Al Baker, A. Michalopoulos, J. Siroopoulos)

#### **About iForce**

iForce Communications S.A. offers experience, know-how and services in the areas of Event Organization & Management, Corporate Communications & Public Relations, Marketing, Investor & Media Relations, Communications Strategy, Lobbying and Project Procurement which are custom tailored for Greek and International clientele. Our clients include Fortune 500 companies, Governmental entities and NGO's who consider their strategic presence vital in the global economy.

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