

**Republic of Seychelles
Office of the President**

PRESS RELEASE

26-01-2010

PRESIDENT MICHEL WELCOMES AIR SEYCHELLES DEVELOPMENT OF NEW BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

President Michel has welcomed the announcement by Air Seychelles that it has begun operations to the Falkland Islands as part of a contract with the UK Ministry of Defence.

In a statement, President Michel noted that “The fact that Air Seychelles has won the contract for these services is a mark of the high standing of our national airline and the professionalism and dedication of its staff”.

He also noted that in the increasingly competitive international airline market, it is encouraging that Air Seychelles is also seeking to adopt innovative business practices beyond its core business: “Innovation is key to Seychelles being ready for the future, and we congratulate Air Seychelles for taking the lead in this way”.

Air Seychelles successfully bid for the contract after the UK Ministry of Defence had to seek a replacement for the previous operator who had to stop flying due to bankruptcy. Several other prestigious airlines bid for the contract, but Air Seychelles was successful due to its experience in flying 767s and its experience with island locations. The length of the contract will be finalised in due course, but it is expected that the agreement will significantly improve revenue flows and therefore the airlines perspectives for 2010.

A press release from Air Seychelles is featured below.



Air Seychelles chosen to fulfil UK Ministry Of Defence South Atlantic Airbridge.

An Air Seychelles B767-300ER yesterday, Sunday 24th December 2010 commenced flights on behalf of the UK Ministry of Defence from Brize Norton Air Force Base, located in Oxfordshire England, to the Ascension Islands and then onto the Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic off the southern tip of South America.

This will be the only scheduled air link to the islands of Ascension and Falklands and is commonly known as the South Atlantic Airbridge.

Both Ascension Islands (Wide Awake Airfield) and RAF Mount Pleasant in the Falklands are isolated airfields. Given that Mahe is also considered an isolated airfield with no nearby suitable alternate aerodromes the operational experience the national airline has, played heavily in the airlines favour in the selection process. Likewise being one of the world's most experienced B767 operators with over 20 years extended range operations and having a meaningful fleet of aircraft, Air Seychelles was considered the best choice.

We are delighted and proud that Air Seychelles was the airline of choice for such an important mission. To enable this operation to be effectively conducted one of the airline's five B767's, a B767-300ER will be permanently based in the UK to carry out the twice weekly service to Ascension and onwards to the Falklands. Crews have been positioned in Ascension and the UK.

Few details can be given at this time and once in a position to do so Air Seychelles will give further details to interested parties.