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News Release

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Detroit Metro Airport Lands 5th Foreign Carrier with Virgin Atlantic Announcing Year-round Service

--September brings DTW 2 new routes from existing carriers, Alaska Airlines starting its first flights, and now a new international airline announcing for 2015.

DETROIT (September 3, 2014)--Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW) is continuing its record-breaking 2014 streak with the announcement of another new airline. Virgin Atlantic [announced](#) today that starting in 2015 they will commence service to Detroit Metro Airport from their hub at London's Heathrow Airport. The announcement of new service comes just one day before Alaska Airlines becomes the airport's newest airline with its flights to Seattle, Washington, starting tomorrow afternoon.

With the addition of Virgin Atlantic, three airlines have either started or announced new service to Detroit during 2014 including Alaska Airlines to Seattle, JetBlue to Boston, and Virgin Atlantic to London's Heathrow Airport. Virgin Atlantic will also become Detroit's fifth foreign flag carrier joining Air Canada (through its regional partners), Air France, Lufthansa, and Royal Jordanian.

"This is a major step for Detroit and our airport," said Thomas Naughton, CEO of Wayne County Airport Authority. "Gaining more international service through more international airlines is one of the airport's top priorities and Europe is our largest overseas market."

The new service will operate as part of a joint-venture with part-owner Delta Air Lines and the flight is expected to operate from Detroit's McNamara Terminal. A start date is not yet official, but the service is expected to begin prior to Summer 2015.

"We have routinely met with the U.K. airlines since British Airways left Detroit in 2008 in order to persuade them that now is the right time to return to Detroit," said Joe Cambron, Director of Air Service Development for Detroit Metro. "I think Detroit's resurgence coupled with the impending move of the FIAT World Headquarters to

London and Virgin's new alliance with Delta allowed the stars to align for our community."

"2014 continues to be the best year ever for the non-hub airlines at DTW in terms of new routes," said Marcus Kemper, Sr. Vice President, Facilities & Development at WCAA. "Now it looks like 2015 is already off to a great start."

So far in 2014, DTW has seen not just three new airlines, but also Spirit adding new service to Atlanta, GA; New Orleans, LA; Kansas City, MO; and Minneapolis, MN; Frontier Airlines to Wilmington, DE (seasonal) and Washington-Dulles, VA (starts September 8th); and Delta service to Rochester, MN (starts September 14th).

Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW) welcomed more than 32 million passengers in 2013 and is one of the world's leading air transportation hubs. With service from 13 scheduled passenger airlines, Michigan's largest airport offers more than 1,100 flights per day to and from nearly 150 non-stop destinations on four continents. In 2010, DTW ranked highest in overall customer satisfaction among large airports in the J.D. Power and Associates North America Airport Satisfaction Study. With two award-winning passenger terminals, six jet runways, and an onsite AAA Four-Diamond Westin Hotel, DTW is among the world's most efficient, customer friendly and operationally capable airports in North America. DTW is operated by Wayne County Airport Authority, which also operates nearby Willow Run Airport – an important corporate, cargo and general aviation facility. The Airport Authority is entirely self-sustaining and does not receive tax dollars to support airport operations. Visit www.metroairport.com for more information.