

Grenoble-Isère and Chambéry-Savoie airports welcome French Connect to Courchevel from the 9th to the 11th April 2008

The 5th edition of French Connect, the forum for low-cost European airlines and French airports, will be held from the 9th to the 11th April 2008 in Courchevel. Hosted this year by Grenoble-Isère and Chambéry-Savoie airports, which have been managed since 2004 by VINCI Airports and Keolis Airport on behalf of the Departmental Councils of Isère and Savoie, the 2008 edition falls under the sign of innovation and dynamism, and constitutes a unique occasion to learn about the development stakes of low-cost air travel in France.

Grenoble-Isère and Chambéry-Savoie airports host the 2008 event

After Liverpool (2004), Sheffield (2005), Marseille (2006) and Nantes-La Baule (2007), Grenoble-Isère and Chambéry-Savoie airports are hosting the 5th edition of French Connect. Ideally located in the heart of the French Alps, Grenoble and Chambéry airports offer genuine potential for the development of the low-cost market.

Managed since 2004 by the VINCI Airports and KEOLIS Airport groups as part of the Public Service Delegation of the Isère and Savoie Regional Councils, Grenoble-Isère and Chambéry-Savoie airports have been enjoying strong development and now welcome 14 regular-flight airlines – who for the most part are Low-Cost companies, operating 30 seasonal destinations in winter or throughout the year. This situation, unique in France for decentralised airports benefiting local communities, has given the two airports particularly cutting-edge knowledge of the European market and players.

Since signing the contract in 2004, the 2 airports have seen growth of 172 % and 68% respectively, essentially from low-cost companies drawn by the winter market. In 2006, Grenoble-Isère airport recorded the largest increase in European traffic in its category, +60%, ranking it among the 20 leading airports in France. Chambéry-Savoie airport, for its part, saw growth of 21% in 2007, thus propelling it to 3rd position in growth among French airports. Traffic through the two Alpine airports reached over 704 000 passengers in 2007.

Drawn by the alpine airports, French Connect 2008 will take place in the prestigious 3 Vallées: Courchevel ski resort, and will thus promote the region's tourist and economic attractions and showcase its international development, Grenoble-Isère and Chambéry-Savoie airports being the 2 best-placed airports for those travelling to and from the French Alp ski resorts.

French Connect: the annual conference for low-cost airlines and French airports

French Connect is the only exclusively French-market forum in the air transport sector where professionals can meet and hold discussions. Every year it brings together approximately 200 participants, directors of European low-cost airlines and French airports, for three days of conferences and networking. This year, French Connect will be welcoming twenty low cost airlines and fifty French airports, as well as regional, national and European political institutions.

Founded in 2004 to meet the specific needs of French airports, French Connect rapidly established itself as the pre-eminent meeting and discussion platform for airports and low cost airlines. It is organised by The Airport Agency, an international consulting agency specialised in airport marketing.

Programme and information at www.frenchconnect.net

VINCI Airports is a subsidiary of VINCI Concessions, a leading European operator of transport infrastructure concessions, with turnover of 4 580 million Euros and 600 million clients in 2007. VINCI Concessions manages 3 airports in France in partnership with KEOLIS: Grenoble-Isère Airport, Chambéry-Savoie and Clermont-Ferrand-Auvergne, as well as 3 airports directly in Cambodia, for total annual traffic of 4.5 million passengers

Keolis Airport is the Keolis group specialist in airport management. Keolis is the leading private operator in the domain of public transport in France, and a worldwide leader in automatic underground management. Each year more than 1.8 billion people travel through the efforts of the 38 000 collaborators of the Group, for turnover of 2.7 billion Euros in 2007. Keolis Airport manages 3 airports directly and 3 airports in partnership with VINCI Airports: Grenoble-Isère, Chambéry-Savoie and Clermont-Ferrand-Auvergne.

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