

Press Release

Kent Loves Manston

Chamber members KLM Air France and Manston Airport enjoyed a triumphant start to the launch of twice daily flights from Manston to Schiphol Amsterdam yesterday. To the obvious delight of a distinguished group of Kent VIPs including Chamber Co-President Sir Roger Gale MP, Kent County Council Leader Paul Carter, Thanet District Council Leader Clive Hart and Dover District Council Leader Paul Watkins, Henri Hourcade, the KLM General Manager for UK & Ireland, thanked his audience for their support and noted that he had already received 5,000 bookings for the service.

The winner of numerous accolades including the 2013 Business Travel Award for Best Short Haul Airline, KLM Air France is rapidly gaining a reputation as the airline of choice for international businesses. Passengers from Manston can now connect at Schiphol to 190 cities worldwide. KLM Air France flies to more destinations in China than any other European carrier. Any ambitious marketing managers flying to New York from East Kent will probably find that they could be in the air on board a flight to the United States from Amsterdam in less time that it would take to reach the check-in desk at London Heathrow.

The inaugural flight to Schiphol took off on time to arrive in Holland 45 minutes later. Blessed with bright sunshine throughout the day, passengers returning in the evening received an equally warm greeting from Manston Airport Managing Director Charles Buchanan and expressed their happiness with the 35 minute return flight and the easy boarding procedures at Schiphol Airport.

Chamber Chief Executive David Foley said: "Manston is now less than an hour from direct connections to the world and all that means in terms of meeting key decision-makers in their headquarters, in their offices and in their factories. This represents a huge boost for exporters, tourism managers and anyone with overseas contacts. It also means more jobs for locals, more customers for our shops and more business for our companies. Let's all agree that Kent Loves Manston."

3rd April 2013
For immediate release

[330 words + headline]

Information

Thanet & East Kent Chamber operates in close liaison with the Dover District Chamber of Commerce which was established in 1850. Together they offer professional business support services to a network of over 500 companies in the private and voluntary sector.

Email: admin@tekc.co.uk
Office Manager: 01843 609289
Chief Executive: 07967 284850
Web: www.tekc.co.uk www.doverchamber.co.uk

Manston Airport: www.manstonairport.com
KLM and Flight Bookings: www.klm.com