

Press Release

Kent Loves Manston

The two main Chambers of Commerce in the East Kent coastal business community gave a hearty welcome to KLM Air France on Friday, 15th March 2013. Before an invited audience from over 150 companies, Henri Hourcade, General Manager of KLM Air France, gave a presentation about why his company was starting two morning flights to Schiphol Amsterdam from Manston every day from 2nd April 2013. The winner of a host of awards such as best airline food in the world on long-haul flights and best staff service in Europe, KLM is committed to ensuring that any Kent residents boarding the service from Manston will receive world-class service at bargain prices without the congestion, delays and frustration experienced by passengers flying from London Heathrow or Gatwick. KLM Sales Manager Victoria Williams gave the facts and figures that showed that anyone from East Kent travelling to New York could be on a connecting flight to New York from Amsterdam in less time than it takes to travel to Heathrow.

Thanking the speakers, Chamber Co-President Laura Sandys MP emphasised the benefits to companies and holiday-makers and welcomed the boost to the local economy that will inevitably follow. Charles Buchanan, CEO of Manston, added that 45 new jobs have been created as a result of the new flights. He looked forward to a long and happy relationship with KLM Air France.

Chamber Chief Executive David Foley said: "Following the Discovery Park Chamber breakfast last month with the announcement of a projected 3,000 jobs on-site and Skanska's proposal at a Chamber lunch ten days later of a multi-million pound stimulus to members through devolved contracts, the past four weeks have been most encouraging for East Kent. When blue-chip companies of the calibre of KLM and Skanska start to put their money into the area, it gives confidence to investors everywhere. There is surely no doubt now that we are seeing the beginnings of a recovery."

From 2nd April 2-13, KLM will begin morning flights to Schiphol Amsterdam departing 7 days a week at 0635 hrs and 1040 hrs. A major hub airport, Schiphol connects direct to over 130 destinations worldwide. KLM was voted Best Short-Haul Airline in the 2013 Business Travel Awards. Bookings from Manston can be made direct from the KLM website at www.klm.com.

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Photographs

125 Images of the event are available on-line at <http://www.photoboxgallery.com/DDCC>.

Information

Thanet & East Kent Chamber provides business support to firms in Ramsgate, Margate, Deal, Broadstairs, Manston, Sandwich, Birchington, Hersden and nearby towns and villages.

Dover District Chamber of Commerce was established in 1850 and offers business support services to the private and voluntary sector in Dover, Deal, Sandwich and the villages in the district.

Email: admin@tekc.co.uk

Office Manager: 01843 609289

Chief Executive: 07967 284850

Web: www.tekc.co.uk www.doverchamber.co.uk