

Media | Release

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First themed airbridge for Christchurch Airport

Tomorrow morning sees the opening of Christchurch International Airport's (CIAL) first themed airbridge, which focuses on an Antarctic experience. Passengers will walk through an airbridge which has floor to ceiling images of Antarctica and Antarctic penguins, complete with sounds of penguin and seal calls.

"We aim to give passengers a unique sensory experience as they arrive into Christchurch," explained CIAL General Manager Marketing and Business Development Gareth Owen. "Christchurch Airport is New Zealand's tourism gateway, so we will have several airbridges, each themed for a tourist attraction or iconic scenery you can reach from Christchurch. That will include Antarctica, the Fiordland rain forest, lakes and native bush."

The airbridges will all have floor to ceiling images, sound, and occasionally smells, to give people a true sensation of actually being in each location."

"We began with the Antarctic airbridge, because of the strategic relationship we have with Antarctica, being a key travel point to that destination," said Gareth Owen.

The Antarctic airbridge will be opened tomorrow morning at 10.30am. Because the airbridge is past the security checkpoints in the International Terminal, any members of the media who wish to attend the opening need to contact Anna Pettigrew (ph 363 4696/ cell: 021 241 5856) by 4pm today, so that security clearances can be organised.

The Antarctic airbridge is a combined venture of Antarctica New Zealand and Christchurch International Airport.

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For further comment, please contact:

Contact

Monique Oomen

Communications Manager

Phone: 03 353 7807

Mobile: 021 450 202

Email: monique.oomen@cial.co.nz

Christchurch International Airport – New Zealand’s Tourism Gateway

Christchurch International Airport welcomed nearly 6 million passengers in 2008/2009, ranking as New Zealand’s second largest airport. The Airport occupies a unique position economically, as the South Island’s busiest and most strategic air connection to the world’s trade and tourism markets. In addition, the airport plays an important role as the South Island’s major domestic hub servicing all New Zealanders, enabling passengers to connect to a full spectrum of destinations throughout New Zealand. Christchurch International Airport is a major driver of the regional Canterbury economy, generating airport precinct related jobs for nearly 5000 people.

Christchurch International Airport is owned and operated by Christchurch International Airport Limited (CIAL). CIAL was established as a limited liability company in 1988, and ownership of CIAL is now shared by Christchurch City Holdings Limited with 75% and the New Zealand Government with 25%. The company’s vision is to be recognised as New Zealand’s leading tourist gateway.

Christchurch International Airport is a carbon neutral company and has received carboNZero certification from Landcare Research following a detailed measurement and analysis process. CIAL is the first airport company in the Southern Hemisphere to attain certified carbon neutral status and is the second carbon neutral certified airport company in the world.

Visit christchurchairport.co.nz for more information.