



## **News Release**

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### **SKYTEAM ALLIANCE CARRIERS CONTINENTAL AIRLINES AND ALITALIA COMMENCE CODESHARING**

HOUSTON AND ROME, April 6, 2006 – SkyTeam alliance members Continental Airlines (NYSE: CAL) and Alitalia today announced they are beginning codesharing to provide better service to passengers who travel between Italy and the US and transfer between the two carriers.

Continental and Alitalia are two of the nine carriers who make up the SkyTeam alliance, which also includes Aeromexico, Air France, CSA Czech, Delta, KLM, Korean Air and Northwest.

Effective immediately, Continental will place its code (CO\*) on the following Alitalia flights: between Rome/Milan and Bari, Brindisi, Catania, Florence, Lamezia Terme, Naples, Palermo, Pisa, Trieste and Venice, Italy; between Rome and Bologna, Genoa, Reggio Calabria, Turin and Verona, Italy; and between Rome/Milan and Tirana, Albania. These flights will connect with Continental's daily non-stop services between New York/Newark and both Rome and Milan.

At the same time, Alitalia will place its code (AZ\*) on Continental flights between New York/Newark and 11 U.S. destinations – Cleveland, Dallas/Fort Worth, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Portland (Oregon), San Francisco and Seattle – plus Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. These flights will connect with Alitalia's daily non-stop services between both Rome and Milan and New York/Newark.

Codesharing improves airline service by simplifying the booking process with electronic ticketing and communication of itinerary information between airlines. Customers traveling on connecting CO/AZ itineraries are able to have single check-in for all flights, including the issuance of boarding passes and checked baggage to their final

destination. Additional codesharing routes are expected to be announced in the upcoming months.

Continental and Alitalia already have airport lounge and frequent flyer reciprocity under the SkyTeam alliance. Members of the two airlines' frequent flyer programmes, Continental's OnePass and Alitalia's MilleMiglia, can earn and redeem miles on all flights operated by the other carrier. Indeed, travelers on any SkyTeam airline earn mileage in their frequent flyer account regardless of which member airline they fly.

SkyTeam was named the 2005 Best Airline Alliance by Global Traveler Magazine.

Continental Airlines, together with Continental Express and Continental Connection, has more than 3,100 daily departures throughout the Americas, Europe and Asia, serving 151 domestic and 133 international destinations, more than any other carrier in the world. More than 400 additional points are served via SkyTeam alliance airlines. With over 42,000 employees, Continental has hubs serving New York, Houston, Cleveland and Guam, and together with Continental Express carries approximately 61 million passengers per year. Continental consistently earns awards and critical acclaim for both its operation and its corporate culture.

Alitalia enters into 2006 with an operating fleet of 177 aircraft connecting 98 airports worldwide with an average of 800 flights daily. While 151 aircraft serve the short and medium haul routes, 28 provide the intercontinental service. In 2005 Alitalia carried 24 million passengers, with a 7.8% increase YOY (a significant result especially when compared with other European carriers), thanks to a network redesign which included adding new destinations such as *Delhi, Strasburg, Shanghai, St. Petersburg, Kiev, Zagreb, Budapest, Timisoara, Sarajevo, Krakow.*