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PRESS RELEASE

oneworld COMES OF AGE

Rob Gurney, the new boss of **oneworld**, is the speaker at a very special event at the Aviation Club UK in February.

The Club's next lunch on February 9 will mark the 18th birthday of what has become the "most highly prized" global alliance worldwide, with its 14 member airlines – British Airways, airberlin, American Airlines, Cathay Pacific, Finnair, Iberia, Japan Airlines, LATAM Airlines, Malaysia Airlines, Qantas, Qatar Airways, S7 Airlines and SriLankan Airlines – together accounting for some 20% of the global industry's total capacity.

Rob, who was named CEO of **oneworld** in August 2016 after serving with alliance members British Airways and Qantas and unaligned Emirates, is expected to outline how **oneworld** intends to continue to add value for its airline members and customers now that it has come of age and how the role of global alliances might develop in the future.

Jane Johnston, Chairman of the Aviation Club UK, said: "There has never been such a wind of change in the political environment that shapes our industry. And never a more important time to make sure you are in touch with the news, views and insights shared with colleagues in the Aviation Club UK. I am delighted that Rob Gurney has agreed to mark **oneworld's** 18th birthday at the start of our programme for 2017 and we look forward to hearing his insights."

Other speakers confirmed to address the Aviation Club UK in 2017 include:

Aeromexico CEO Andres Conesa, 8 March 2017: Aeromexico operates in one of the largest markets in Latin America and is developing its hub position at Mexico City to link Latin American and Pacific markets using its new Boeing 787 Dreamliners. Its joint business with Delta was approved by regulators as 2016 came to close – paving the way for its US partner to increase its stake in the Mexican carrier. The club will have a chance to find out what this – to say nothing of the new US administration – means for Aeromexico.

KLM CEO Pieter Elbers, 5 April 2017: Air France KLM was the first major cross border merger in Europe. KLM has long been successful in punching above its weight from its Amsterdam Schiphol base – which it has built into a major hub serving the UK regions - and has continued to do so in compliment to the group's Paris CDG activity. As Lufthansa and IAG close on Air France-KLM's position as Europe's biggest airline group, the Franco-Dutch combine faces many internal and external challenges. As a Dutchman, KLM CEO Pieter Elbers is sure to be a direct and interesting speaker.

US Federal Aviation Administrator head Michael Huerta, 15 June 2017: As the boss of the FAA in the USA, Michael Huerta is responsible for the safety and efficiency of the largest aerospace system in the world. He oversees a US\$16.3 billion budget and more than 47,000 employees. With a new US President in post, what does he see as his main challenges?

UK Secretary of State for Transport Chris Grayling, 12 July 2017: Secretary of State for Transport Chris Grayling will have been in post for almost a year when he speaks to the club. With the government backing Heathrow for the South East's new runway and with negotiations looming on the terms for the UK exiting the EU, what are his priorities for our industry?

-ends-**Notes to Editors:**

The Aviation Club, which was founded 26 years ago, aims to provide a forum for its 500 members to discuss, promote and develop all aspects of civil aviation. More information and membership details for the Aviation Club of the UK can be found at www.aviationclub.org.uk

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