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News Release

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List of New Nonstop Destinations from Detroit Metro Airport Keeps Growing

Just five weeks into the New Year, Northwest Airlines' announcement today regarding new non-stop flights between Detroit and Wichita, Kansas, marks the third new, non-stop destination added from Detroit Metro Airport in 2008.

The Wichita announcement today came on the heels of Northwest Airlines' previously-announced plans to begin new, daily, non-stop flights from Detroit to both Monterrey, Mexico, and London's Heathrow Airport. All three cities are important business markets for the companies that power Detroit's economic engine. Ford Motor Company has substantial manufacturing operations in the Monterrey area, while Wichita is a major center for aerospace manufacturing. London's Heathrow Airport is the busiest airport in Europe and the preferred gateway to Europe's largest city and financial capital.

"The flurry of new route announcements in such a short time is a big vote of confidence in Metro Detroit," said Wayne County Airport Authority CEO Lester Robinson. "These new flights will provide even greater opportunities for Southeast Michigan travelers, especially as we build-up to the launch of daily, nonstop flights from Detroit to both Shanghai and Beijing in early 2009."

Northwest said it plans to begin the new Detroit to Wichita flights starting May 2, 2008, the same day it will launch previously-announced non-stop service between Detroit and Monterrey, Mexico. Daily, non-stop flights between Detroit and London Heathrow are set to begin on May 1, while existing daily service to London's Gatwick airport will continue.

"Monterrey is Detroit's most popular Latin market without nonstop air service," said Jack Vogel, Senior Vice President of Business Development for the WCAA. "Combined with new non-stop access to London Heathrow and convenient connections to Wichita, all three of these new flights underscore Detroit's role as a global air transport hub."

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In mid-2007, Northwest Airlines and China Southern Airlines announced plans to begin new, daily, non-stop flights connecting Detroit with Shanghai and Beijing, respectively. When the new China flights begin in early 2009, Detroit Metro will feature non-stop flights to five of Asia's largest business centers, as well as 13 daily flights to six cities in Europe and service to six destinations in Mexico (some seasonal).

Serving nearly 36 million passengers each year, Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW) is the largest airport in Michigan and among the 20 busiest air transportation hubs in the world. In addition to serving as the largest hub in the world for Northwest Airlines, the world's fifth largest airline by revenue passenger miles, DTW is home to fourteen additional airlines, including several low-cost carriers and four foreignflag carriers. Altogether, DTW offers more than 1,200 non-stop flights per day to over 160 destinations worldwide.

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