

PRESS RELEASE**Memorandum of Understanding with Qatar Airways**

Olbia, February 4th 2016 - Qatar Airways and Alisarda are working on a potential partnership project regarding the Italian airline Meridiana. The two parties have agreed upon the pillars of the business proposition, which envisages a reinforcement of Meridiana with the objective of making it a solid player in the very competitive European aviation industry.

The two parties have signed a Memorandum of Understanding which outlines the conditions precedent for the partnership.

Subject to the satisfaction of such conditions precedent, the parties plan to complete the transaction in the first half of 2016.

Per ulteriori informazioni:
press@meridiana.com

Editor's note

Alisarda is an holding company controlled by AKFED S.A. Alisarda controls the airline Meridiana and the airport management company Geasar (Olbia airport).

Meridiana is an Italian airline controlled by AKFED (Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development), with its headquarters in Olbia.

The company was set up with the name of Alisarda on 29 March 1963, with the aim of promoting tourism in Sardinia. In 1991 the name was changed to Meridiana. Thanks to the merger with charter carrier Eurofly and to the acquisition of the charter company Air Italy, during last five years, Meridiana has become one of the most important players in international flights and its growth in new medium and long haul destinations is ongoing. Moreover Meridiana signed partnerships or cooperation agreements with most of the leading tour operators in Italy.

Meridiana's fleet consists of Boeing 737, Boeing 767 and McDonnell Douglas MD82 aircraft.

Qatar Airways, the national carrier of the State of Qatar, is one of the fastest growing airlines operating one of the youngest fleets in the world. Now in its 19th year of operations, Qatar Airways has a modern fleet of 175 aircraft flying to more than 150 key business and leisure destinations across six continents. Qatar Airways won Airline of the Year, Best Business Class Airline Seat and Best Airline in the Middle East at the 2015 Skytrax Awards. This is the third time the airline won the accolade of Airline of the Year.

Qatar Airways is a member of the oneworld global alliance. The award-winning alliance was named the World's Best Airline Alliance 2015 by Skytrax for the third year running. Qatar Airways was the first Gulf carrier to join global airline alliance, oneworld, enabling its passengers to benefit from more than 1,000 airports in more than 150 countries, with 14,250 daily departures.

Qatar Airways launched Oryx One in 2015, an enhanced interface for its inflight entertainment system, increasing the number of movies and TV shows on board from 950 to up to 2,000. Passengers flying on Qatar Airways flights served by its B787, A350, A380, A319 as well as select A320 and A330 aircraft can also stay in touch with their friends and family around the world by using the five-star airline's on-board Wifi and GSM service.

Qatar Airways Cargo, the world's third largest cargo carrier, serves more than 40 exclusive freighter destinations worldwide via its Doha hub and also delivers freight to more than 150 key business and leisure destinations globally on 175 aircraft. The Qatar Airways Cargo fleet now includes seven Airbus 330, eight Boeing 777 freighters and one Boeing 747 freighter.