

Media Release



Changi Airport welcomes the arrival of SF Airlines – the first Chinese express carrier to operate in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 4 September 2018 – Changi Airport Group (CAG) today welcomed the arrival of SF Airlines’ inaugural flight from Shenzhen, China. SF Airlines is the first Chinese express airline to operate between Singapore and China, and its arrival strengthens air trade flows between the two countries.

China is Changi Airport’s largest air cargo market, registering more than 270,000 tonnes of airfreight throughput (+8% year-on-year), for the 12 months ending June 2018. With the addition of SF Airlines’ weekly service¹ on a Boeing 767F aircraft, main deck airfreight capacity to and from Shenzhen will increase by about 16% on this route².

The inaugural flight landed today at Changi Airport, and was welcomed by representatives from CAG and SF Airlines. Changi Airport Group’s Managing Director for Air Hub Development, Mr Lim Ching Kiat said, “We welcome SF Airlines to Changi Airport’s family of cargo airlines. Significantly, this allows for more cargo flows from China to and through Changi Airport, and will secure Singapore’s position as a premier regional cargo hub.

“There is also growing demand by the Chinese market for perishables and pharmaceutical products from the Southwest Pacific and Southeast Asian regions; both are among the top cargo segments passing through Changi Airport from these regions to China, with a robust year-on-year growth. Singapore is a gateway for such flows between China and countries in the two regions. The added capacity by SF Airlines marks the start of expected growth of express flows on these routes.”

¹ The weekly service will operate from 4 September to 27 October 2018. Subsequent services are subject to approval from the regulatory authorities.

² UPS also operates pure freighter services on the Singapore-Shenzhen route while bellyhold capacity is provided by passenger airlines Scoot, Shenzhen Airlines and SilkAir.

Mr Liang Xi, SF Airlines' Vice President of Maintenance and Engineering said, "The successful launch of direct flights to Singapore is a testament to SF Airlines' ability in responding quickly to market demands, and showcases its commitment to its customers in providing competitive and reliable route options."

SF Airlines is the largest express airline in China by aircraft fleet. As a member of SF Group, SF Airlines' new Singapore services will be an extension of the Group's business in Singapore. SF Group's express delivery arm, SF Express, has been operating in Singapore since February 2010, and established warehousing facilities in the Changi Airfreight Centre (CAC) in September 2012. With SF Express' growth in operations in the region, CAG has worked closely with the express player to facilitate its expansion in Singapore.

As of 1 July 2018, Changi Airport is connected to 36 cities in China with more than 380 weekly services. Shenzhen is among Singapore's top five Chinese cities for cargo throughput.

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About Changi Airport Group

Changi Airport Group (Singapore) Pte Ltd (CAG) (www.changiairportgroup.com) was formed on 16 June 2009 and the corporatisation of Singapore Changi Airport (IATA: SIN, ICAO: WSSS) followed on 1 July 2009. As the company managing Changi Airport, CAG undertakes key functions focusing on airport operations and management, air hub development, commercial activities and airport emergency services. CAG also manages Seletar Airport (IATA: XSP, ICAO: WSSL) and through its subsidiary Changi Airports International, invests in and manages foreign airports.

Changi Airport is the world's sixth busiest airport for international traffic. It served a record 62.2 million passengers from around the globe and handled 2.13 million tonnes of airfreight throughput in 2017. More than 400 retail stores and 140 F&B outlets are situated across four terminals to cater to passengers and visitors. With over 100 airlines providing connectivity to 400 cities worldwide, Changi Airport handles about 7,200 flights every week, or about one every 80 seconds.