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# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# AIR NAMIBIA SIGNS MOU WITH TURKISH AIRLINES

*Tuesday, 22 April 2014*: Air Namibia recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Turkish Airlines. The MoU will culminate in a number of specific agreements being concluded, covering different specific and envisaged areas of cooperation. This milestone is in line with the two airlines' strategies of promoting "airline to airline" cooperation with a view of strengthening their respective airlines.

The MoU, which was signed by the Chief Investment & Technology Officer of Turkish Airlines Dr Ahmet Bolat and Air Namibia Managing Director Ms Theo M. Namases in Istanbul-Turkey, on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014, seeks to enhance commercial cooperation between the two airlines and enhance air traffic for passengers and cargo between Namibia and Turkey. The MoU also seeks to facilitate human capital development and training, coordinated network development, strengthen operating and technical capabilities of Air Namibia, as well as overall improvement of Air Namibia's service standards and efficiency levels.

"This cooperative agreement is in line with our roadmap which will see Air Namibia build a strong business, strengthen our route network, improve commercial agility and service standards, better our already high dispatch reliability, as well as human capital development aspects. Turkish Airlines is a good benchmark for us, given their "record high" achievements over the last couple of years, including being crowned the "Best Airline in Europe" 3 years in a row including year 2013", remarked Theo Namases, the Managing Director of Air Namibia.

"We are pleased to announce that a commercial cooperation agreement has been reached between Turkish Airlines and Air Namibia. This cooperation is an instance in the construction of global aeronautical services by Turkish Airlines together with the top partners of the aviation industry. Turkish Airlines is highly focused on Africa concerning its expansion plans on its flight services, as well as other related services. By building a bridge between Turkey and Namibia via our Istanbul hub we are also strengthening our presence in the top emerging market economy in the region." said Dr. Ahmet Bolat, the Chief Investment & Technology Officer of Turkish Airlines.

The envisaged cooperation with Turkish goes beyond cooperation on commercial aspects as indicated above, as it includes operational and technical, training and service level improvements.

Issued by:

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# About Air Namibia (Pty) Limited:

Air Namibia, Namibia's national airline, operates scheduled flights and carries cargo (freights) on domestic, regional and intercontinental flights. The airline was founded in 1947 as South West Air Transport, which later changed to South West Airways. In 1992, the airline's name was changed to Air Namibia. The mandate of Air Namibia is to be a major contributor towards the attraction and promotion of tourism to Namibia by providing air transport services between Namibia and other countries, as well as by operating flights within the boundaries of Namibia. The airline is positioned as a niche carrier serving domestic points within Namibia, the immediate regional markets of South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Angola. Points beyond (Asia, USA, Middle East and Europe) are serviced in conjunction with partner airlines via our gateways: Frankfurt, Johannesburg and Lusaka.

#### **About Turkish Airlines:**

Established in 1933 with a fleet of five aircraft, Star Alliance member Turkish Airlines is a 4-star airline today with a fleet of 241 (passenger and cargo) aircraft flying to 244 destinations worldwide with 202 international and 42 domestic. According to Skytrax survey of 2013, Turkish Airlines was chosen "Europe's Best Airline" for the third and "Best Airline in Southern Europe" for the fourth consecutive time. Having won in 2010 the world's "Best Economy Catering Service" award, Turkish Airlines was this year awarded the world's "Best Business Catering Service" prize in the Skytrax survey. More information about Turkish Airlines can be found on their website: www.turkishairlines.com.

### **About Star Alliance:**

Turkish Airlines is a member of the airline alliance, Star Alliance which was established in 1997. Star Alliance serves 1,328 destinations in 195 countries with 21,900 flights daily. Having received the "Market Leadership Award" from Air Transport World and "Best Airline Alliance" awards from Business Traveller Magazine and Skytrax; Star Alliance has the following member airline companies: Adria Airways, Aegean Airlines, Air Canada, Air China, Air New Zealand, ANA, Asiana Airlines, Austrian, Avianca, TACA Airlines, Brussels Airlines, Copa Airlines, Croatia Airlines, EGYPTAIR, Ethiopian Airlines, EVA Air, LOT Polish Airlines, Lufthansa, Scandinavian Airlines, Shenzhen Airlines, Singapore Airlines, South African Airways, SWISS, TAM Airlines, TAP Portugal, Turkish Airlines, THAI, United and US Airways.