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Air Namibia and Turkish Airlines have signed an agreement to enhance commercial cooperation.

Air Namibia's Managing Director Theo Namases and Turkish Airlines' Chief Investment and Technology Officer, Dr Ahmet Bolat, signed the agreement last month.

Air Namibia's spokesperson, Paulus Nakawa, said in a statement yesterday that the agreement will culminate in a number of specific agreements being concluded, covering different envisaged areas of cooperation.

"This milestone is in line with the two airlines' strategies of promoting airline-to-airline cooperation with a view to strengthening their respective airlines," he noted.

The agreement also seeks to facilitate staff development and training, coordinated network development, strengthening the operating and technical capabilities of Air Namibia as well as the overall improvement of Air Namibia's service standards and efficiency levels.

Namases said the agreement is in line with the company's roadmap, which will see Air Namibia building a strong business, strengthening its route network, improving commercial agility and service standards, ensuring better high-dispatch reliability as well as staff development.

"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 three years in a row, including the year 2013," she said.

Bolat was quoted in the statement as saying that "this cooperation is an instance in the construction of global aeronautical services by Turkish Airlines, together with top partners of the aviation industry".

He said Turkish Airlines is highly focused on Africa with its expansion plans.

"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," he said.

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