



Paris, 22 January 2021

## **Air France chooses Michelin as its exclusive tyre supplier as part of an ambitious ten-year partnership**

- For the next 10 years, the Michelin group will equip the Air France fleet with tyres produced in France.
- Air France and Michelin are extending their historic partnership to develop services and solutions for a more sustainable aviation industry.

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Air France has renewed its trust in Michelin and has selected the French group as the exclusive tyre supplier for its aircraft fleet. The Michelin Group will equip the company's short-, medium- and long-haul aircraft<sup>1</sup> with new or retreaded tyres notably produced at the Saint Doulchard plant in Bourges, France.

Air France's aircraft will be equipped with the most modern aircraft tyres, such as Radial Michelin® AIR X tyres incorporating NZG (Near Zero Growth) technology. Designed to guarantee a constant tyre diameter, this technology provides aircraft tyres with greater durability and exceptional resistance.

### **A long-term partnership focused on innovation and the development of ever more sustainable aviation**

Pioneers in the field of French aviation and historic partners, Air France and Michelin have always shared a common DNA: innovation at the service of performance and safety.

Between 2010 and 2020, the partnership has enabled Air France to benefit from all the latest technologies developed by Michelin. Over the next ten years, both groups will continue to work together and steer the field of innovation towards a shared ambition, to reduce the carbon footprint. Michelin takes an active part in European research programmes and is working on breakthrough technologies to continue to lighten its tyres and associated systems and to mechanically reduce fuel consumption and CO2 emissions on each flight.

Air France and Michelin will also extend their partnership to digital and other services. Michelin will offer Air France even more ambitious solutions such as its innovative recycling channels, its high-performance ecological resins and its 3D metal and plastic printing expertise. This broadening of the partnership's scope is made possible by Michelin's recent diversification of its areas of activity and know-how.

These initiatives will help Air France achieve the ambitious sustainable development objectives it has set, including a 50% reduction in its CO2 emissions per passenger/km by 2030.

*"More than just a supplier, the Michelin Group is a long-standing partner of Air France. We are delighted to be equipping our aircraft with tyres Made in France and to be extending our collaboration to new fields of innovation. This new agreement paves the way for ambitious projects that will enable us to accelerate the reduction of our environmental footprint, which is one of Air France's priorities."* said Géry Mortreux, EVP Engineering & Maintenance at Air France.

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<sup>1</sup> Excluding Boeing 787

*"We are honoured by the trust Air France has placed in us by choosing Michelin as its trusted partner for the next ten years. This commitment naturally includes equipping its entire fleet with high-performance tyres. Guaranteeing a high level of safety in extreme conditions and a large number of landings, Michelin tyres are particularly well suited to new-generation aircraft. Lighter in weight, they also offer significant fuel savings, helping to make aviation even more sustainable. This partnership will also enable us to explore new growth areas for both our groups, beyond the supply of tyres."* said Mauro Sponza, Director of Aeronautical Activities at Michelin.

## **About Air France**

Since 1933, Air France has been promoting and highlighting France throughout the world. With an activity divided between passenger transport, cargo transport and aeronautical maintenance, Air France is a major air transport player. A workforce of more than 45,000 staff are committed on a daily basis to offering each customer a unique travel experience. Air France, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and Transavia make up the Air France-KLM Group. The Group relies on its powerful hubs at Paris-Charles de Gaulle and Amsterdam-Schiphol to offer a vast international network. Its Flying Blue frequent flyer programme has over 17 million members. Air France and KLM are members of the SkyTeam alliance which has a total of 19 member airlines.

Air France places the health and safety of its customers and staff at the heart of its concerns. As part of its Air France Protect health and safety commitment, the company has introduced the strictest health and hygiene measures to ensure a safe trip.

Air France has set itself ambitious sustainable development objectives and is working to reduce and offset its CO2 emissions. As part of the Horizon 2030 programme, the company is committed to reducing its CO2 emissions per passenger/km by 50% between now and 2030 through significant investment in new-generation aircraft, recourse to innovative solutions to reduce its fuel consumption and progressive use of sustainable alternative fuels.

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## **About Michelin**

Michelin, the leading mobility company, is dedicated to enhancing its clients' mobility, sustainably; designing and distributing the most suitable tires, services and solutions for its clients' needs; providing digital services, maps and guides to help enrich trips and travels and make them unique experiences; and developing high-technology materials that serve a variety of industries. Headquartered in Clermont-Ferrand, France, Michelin is present in 170 countries, has more than 127,000 employees and operates 69 tire production facilities which together produced around 200 million tires in 2019.

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