

Worldspan, IBM Strengthen Relationship With New Strategic Technology Agreement

Tuesday January 14, 6:30 am ET

ATLANTA and WHITE PLAINS, N.Y., Jan. 14 /PRNewswire/ -- Worldspan and IBM have signed a strategic technology agreement, valued at more than \$350 million over five years, that will enable Worldspan to integrate additional IBM technology into Worldspan's growing line of travel solutions and extend its use of IBM's Transaction Processing Facility (TPF) platform. TPF is the high- bandwidth operating system and transaction processor that forms much of the software infrastructure for the travel industry.

With today's announcement Worldspan has chosen to extend the TPF operating system by integrating it with IBM WebSphere Internet infrastructure software. The company is also enhancing its overall IT development initiatives through access to a broader range of IBM products including IBM WebSphere Application Server and development tools and consulting resources through IBM Global Services. Under the new contract, Worldspan expects to achieve the goal of lower costs and greater capabilities for its customers.

"The Internet has forever changed the dynamics of the travel industry and has challenged the IT strategies of most companies in this marketplace," said Paul J. Blackney, president and chief executive officer for Worldspan.

"As the leader in the e-commerce arena, Worldspan is focused on providing increasingly robust, cost-effective solutions while addressing the higher processing demands in this fast-changing environment.

"Worldspan has long been committed to using and adapting the TPF operating system, and is a leader in opening up the TPF platform for greater Internet utility. Our renewed relationship with IBM will enable Worldspan to leverage our existing system with new technology to increase capabilities and continue to provide flexible, Internet-based applications for our customers," Blackney noted.

"Deploying this open and integrated IT architecture will allow Worldspan to respond to the dynamic demands of online travel buying with even more agility and speed," said Bill Diffenderffer, vice president, IBM Travel & Transportation for IBM Global Services. "This infrastructure transformation moves Worldspan closer to being a true 'on demand' e-business with technology that is able to scale more easily and economically to meet the variable needs of the marketplace.

"Utilizing the open WebSphere technology framework for its Java-based development will allow Worldspan to leverage its investment in its existing TPF system while using state-of-the-art Web interfaces to branch out into newer areas," Diffenderffer noted. "In terms of scalable, fast, high-end, high-volume, high-bandwidth computing, there is

nothing comparable to the IBM TPF operating system. It is a serious transaction processor which IBM is very committed to."

"This agreement enables Worldspan to broaden the selection of technologies we use and continue to cost effectively integrate TPF into a distributed environment. We can now also use other IBM technologies to develop flexible Java-based applications that can grow with our needs," said Worldspan's Blackney. "Scalability, flexibility in deployment and the ability to deploy across multiple platforms will all be more important than ever in Worldspan products going forward. Our renewed relationship with IBM gives us more of the best choices for the future."

IBM provides a broad range of products, services, consulting and integrated solutions to all segments of the worldwide travel and transportation industries. For additional information on its offerings for these industries, visit www.ibm.com/industries/travel .

Worldspan is the leading travel technology resource for travel suppliers, travel agencies, e-commerce sites and corporations worldwide. Utilizing the fastest, most flexible and most efficient network and computing technologies in the industry, Worldspan provides comprehensive electronic data services linking thousands of travel suppliers around the world to a global customer base. The company offers industry-leading Fares and Pricing technology such as Worldspan e-Pricing(SM), hosting solutions, and customized travel products, including Worldspan Travel Button®. Worldspan enables travel suppliers, distributors and corporations to reduce costs and increase productivity with best-in-class technology like Worldspan Go!® and Worldspan Trip Manager®. Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, Worldspan is owned by affiliates of Delta Air Lines, Inc. (NYSE: DAL - News), Northwest Airlines (Nasdaq: NWAC - News) and American Airlines. Additional information is available at www.worldspan.com .

Reuters News Service

ATLANTA, Jan 14 (Reuters) - Worldspan L.P., the computerized travel reservation system, that is partly owned by Delta Air Lines (NYSE:DAL - News), on Tuesday said it signed a five-year Internet-technology contract with International Business Machines (NYSE:IBM - News) worth over \$350 million.

Under the contract, Worldspan will use IBM's Internet infrastructure technology, called WebSphere, in order to provide cost savings and add greater convenience for customers. Worldspan will also have access to additional IBM products and services, the company said.

Worldspan already uses IBM's transaction processing facility, a high-bandwidth operating system. Websphere will be integrated into this technology, Worldspan said.

Associated Press

ATLANTA - Airline-ticket processor Worldspan has signed a five-year, \$350 million deal to buy IBM equipment to update its system. IBM's Transaction Processing Facility operating system is used by much of the travel industry to process transactions.

Worldspan said it hopes to cut costs and improve its efficiency by upgrading its system.

"The Internet has forever changed the dynamics of the travel industry and has challenged the IT strategies of most companies in this marketplace," said Paul J. Blackney, president and chief executive officer for Worldspan.

"Our renewed relationship with IBM will enable Worldspan to leverage our existing system with new technology to increase capabilities and continue to provide flexible, Internet-based applications for our customers."

Atlanta-based Worldspan is a travel reservation service owned jointly by Delta Air Lines, Northwest Airlines and AMR Corp., the parent of American Airlines. It has 3,200 employees. Besides selling its services to various airlines and travel agencies, Worldspan handles ticketing for online companies, including Priceline and Expedia.