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## **Air China readies for the new year with state-of-art Sabre Flight Operations Control Centre**

*China's flag carrier faces challenging business environment with strong investment in technology*

**BEIJING** – Air China, China's national flag carrier, has begun operation of its brand new, state-of-the-art Flight Operations Control Centre that will ensure better aircraft utilisation, optimise fuel efficiency, and facilitate smarter crew management, thereby ensuring cost efficiencies across the board.

The project, undertaken with Sabre Airline Solutions, is Air China's largest of this kind with a foreign partner.

Sabre is providing Air China with its *AirOps* and *AirCrews* suite of solutions to manage its daily maintenance and flight operations, automate flight planning and produce optimal load plans. Sabre's airline consulting practice has also played a major role in using deep industry expertise to implement the technology solution.

With these, Air China will significantly improve its aircraft utilisation, especially during flight disruptions; it will also move its current manual process for crew rostering to an automated one for its more than 6,000 cabin and cockpit crew.

"This partnership with Sabre has given us one of the world's best flight operations centres, which is the nerve centre for our airline and critical to smooth operations during the new year and beyond. Just as in every corner of the world, China is anticipating difficult times ahead. Such an investment will ensure we make the most efficient use of our resources," said Song Zhi Yong, senior vice president, Air China.

The Flight Operations Control Centre is the heart of an airline's daily operations. This integrated centre coordinates the day-to-day, minute-to-minute operation of the airline, providing centralised, real-time operational control and management of the airline's overall flight operations, including

flight scheduling, aircraft movement control, dispatch, flight planning, weight and balance, crew management and other aspects of flight coordination.

"Airlines around the world are looking for ways to run efficient and quality operations at the lowest possible cost. With this implementation, Air China will be doing just that. The investment they have made in this best-of-class operations control centre will quickly pay for itself," said Nejib Ben-Khedher, senior vice president, consulting and solutions delivery, Sabre Airline Solutions.

With this project, some 60 percent of all mainland Chinese flights are now planned using Sabre software, and 82 percent of all mainland Chinese flights will be managed operationally using Sabre software – the result of Sabre's 10-year relationship with Chinese airlines.

***About Sabre Airline Solutions***

About Sabre Airline Solutions: The world's leading provider of integrated solutions and services for airlines and airports, Sabre Airline Solutions helps companies generate more revenue by optimizing performance in 14 key areas of airline operations. More than 300 leading carriers over 100 airports use Sabre Airline Solutions to better market their schedules, sell their products, serve their customers and operate efficiently. Sabre Airline Solutions was founded in 1960. For more information on Sabre Airline Solutions, please visit [www.sabreairlinesolutions.com](http://www.sabreairlinesolutions.com)

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