



Lugano and Geneva, Switzerland. 25 of November 2010

### **Darwin Airline announces plans to acquire the activities of Baboo to strengthen its position as a Swiss Regional Airline**

Darwin Airline SA ("Darwin") and FlyBaboo SA ("Baboo"), the two Swiss regional airlines today announced that they have entered into an agreement, where Darwin will take over the routes currently operated by Baboo and purchase part of Baboo's operational assets. This will lead to the expansion of Darwin and strengthen its position in the regional airline market. Darwin will continue to market some of its services under the Baboo brand.

The airline will offer a superior service to its customers across an enlarged regional network serving in excess of 20 Swiss, Italian, French and other European destinations, operating a fleet of 6 SAAB 2000 and 2 Bombardier Q400 turboprop aircraft.

By this transaction Darwin aims at almost double its turnover from CHF 40 Million to around CHF 80 Million, carrying on its flights over 500,000 passengers per year still maintaining the cooperation with both its domestic and foreign partner airlines.

The airline will continue to be headquartered in Lugano and will also have a base in Geneva operating the former Baboo routes.

Fabio Parini, CEO of Darwin Airline said, "Having consolidated Darwin over the last three years, we have now started a process aimed at a sustainable expansion of its network and activities. Still pursuing our policy of safest operations and of outstanding customer service at affordable prices, through this transaction we aim to optimize our commercial activity in the interest of our customers, while maintaining a complementary relationship with our partners. We believe that we will strengthen our potential of growth and also bring an important added value to both our current and new employees as well as to the other main stakeholders."

Mark Darby, CEO of Baboo added, "This transaction will create a substantial Swiss regional airline. We are confident that Darwin will be able to succeed in an increasingly competitive marketplace and to assure the continuity of service and the quality of product, well appreciated by Baboo's loyal customers, who will also enjoy the continuation of the Baboo Brand, that is well known and valued in the Geneva market."

The transaction between the two companies, which is subject to the customary legal and commercial due diligence and to the approval of the authorities, is expected to be completed in early 2011; during the transaction period Baboo will continue its current operations.

Notes to Editors:

**Darwin Airline:**

Regional Airline based at Lugano Airport (Ticino, Switzerland) Darwin was founded in Lugano in 2003, is operating scheduled flights from Lugano to Swiss and Italian destinations as well as on routes into the Italian market. It also provides high quality “ad hoc” and “chains” charter flight and ACMI services for SWISS. Darwin Airline has certified its own Part 145 in Lugano for line maintenance of the fleet, which consists of six SAAB 2000 turboprop aircraft. Darwin presently employs over 140 people throughout its network. For further information visit [www.darwinairline.com](http://www.darwinairline.com)

**FlyBaboo SA:** Founded in Geneva in 2003, Baboo flies from Geneva to 10 different European destinations and is also an operator of charter flights. Baboo offers a wide range of services aimed at business and leisure travellers. Its fleet consists of two Turboprops Bombardier DH8-Q400 with 74 seats. For further information visit [www.flybaboo.com](http://www.flybaboo.com)

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