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- Bookings exceed targets by more than 50 percent -

NEW YORK, April 3 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- New York-based value airline JetBlue Airways and its partner, Aer Lingus, today celebrate the first anniversary of their partnership with the announcement that bookings through March 31, 2009 have exceeded targets by 50 percent, giving JetBlue the opportunity to connect more than 80 customers a day from the Emerald Isle.

(Logo: http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20090217/NY71475LOGO-b)

The strongest performing connecting markets in the JetBlue route network from Ireland were to popular sunshine and city destinations including Orlando, Palm Beach, Tampa, Fort Lauderdale and Fort Myers, Florida; as well as Phoenix, Arizona; Las Vegas, Nevada; L.A./Long Beach and San Diego, California; and Buffalo, New York.

The partnership is not a traditional interline or code share agreement. It represents an industry first, which enables U.S. and Irish customers to book a single low fare between Ireland and destinations in the U.S. and Puerto Rico exclusively at aerlingus.com. Additionally, JetBlue and Aer Lingus customers enjoy the convenience of a seamless airport transfer facility, which includes baggage transfer.

The overriding success of the partnership, which initially allowed for connections between Dublin and Shannon, Ireland and more than 25 JetBlue destinations via New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK), was extended last autumn to allow for connections via Boston Logan Airport, JetBlue's second largest focus city. The relationship has extended access to the Aer Lingus transatlantic product to JetBlue cities across the U.S. Conversely, this development gives Irish travelers greater choice and access to further onward connections in the JetBlue network.

JetBlue's recent move to a brand new state-of-the-art facility at JFK Terminal 5 has further enhanced the customer experience. Customers can now enjoy the convenience and comfort of JetBlue's new user-friendly airport facility.

JetBlue CEO, Dave Barger said, "Over the past year, the JetBlue and Aer Lingus brands have aligned to create a preferred customer experience that is second to none. In addition to award-wining customer service, customers receive more for their money, including free checked bags, free, live, in-flight entertainment and complimentary snacks and drinks. Our partnership, which has already far exceeded our expectations, will continue to build on the success of introducing this valuable stream of customers to our product and the ease of the travel process with our two leading brands."

Commenting on the anniversary Aer Lingus CEO, Dermot Mannion said, "One year on and the success of our pioneering partnership with JetBlue speaks for itself. It is testament to the strength and value offering which underpins our success. Since its inception the partnership has gone from strength to strength and customer response has been tremendous. We will continue to grow and develop new opportunities in partnership with JetBlue thus further strengthen our relationship - offering our customers greater choice and ease of access to more destinations in North America."

About Aer Lingus

Aer Lingus, Ireland's Airline, has gained international acclaim for its low-cost, low-fare model centered on offering one-way fares. Consistent with this low-cost model, Aer Lingus' primary distribution channel is its website, www.aerlingus.com. The airline serves nearly 70 destinations across Ireland, the UK, Continental Europe and the United States. Transatlantic service includes direct non-stop service between the Emerald Isle and Boston, Chicago, New York (JFK), Orlando, San Francisco and Washington Dulles.

About JetBlue Airways

New York-based JetBlue Airways has created a new airline category based on value, service and style. Known for its award-winning service and free TV as much as its low fares, JetBlue is now pleased to offer customers Lots of Legroom and super-spacious Even More Legroom seats. JetBlue introduced complimentary in-flight e-mail and instant messaging services on aircraft "BetaBlue," a first among U.S. domestic airlines. JetBlue is also America's first and only airline to offer its own Customer Bill of Rights, with meaningful and specific compensation for customers inconvenienced by service disruptions within JetBlue's control. Visit www.jetblue.com/promise for details. JetBlue serves 53 cities with 600 daily flights. New service begins to Montego Bay, Jamaica on May 21 and to Los Angeles International Airport on June 17. With JetBlue, all seats are assigned, all travel is ticketless, all fares are one-way, and an overnight stay is never required. For information or reservations call 1-800-JETBLUE (1-800-538-2583), TTY/TDD 1-800-336-5530 or visit www.jetblue.com.

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