

SITA SYSTEMS TO REDUCE CHECK-IN QUEUES IN KATHMANDU

KATHMANDU – 20 December, 2011 – The Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal has signed a seven-year agreement with SITA, the air transport IT specialist, to tackle check-in queues at the country's main gateway, Tribhuvan International Airport and to support its efforts to attract more tourists to the country.

Long queues are a consequence of the lack of airline common-use facilities at the airport which receives 85% of Nepal's tourism traffic. With the introduction of SITA's common-use platform AirportConnect Open queues will be reduced and passenger flow through the airport will greatly improve because check-in areas can be used more efficiently. SITA AirportConnect Open is being implemented initially at 24 check-in counters, later expanding to 36.

Ratish Chandra Lal Suman, General Manager, Tribhuvan International Airport, said: "We selected SITA after an extremely competitive international bidding process. This upgrade to our check-in facilities is timely as we have seen record levels of passenger traffic this year with the heavy promotion of Nepal Tourism Year.

"And passenger numbers are expected to grow further from now until April, the peak tourism period in Nepal. There was a real boom last year when international airlines serving the country grew their passenger volumes by over 20% and we hope this trend will continue."

Maneesh Jaikrishna, SITA Country Director for India and Subcontinent, said: "Airlines, airports and governments have increasingly complex requirements. They need consistent passenger processing, reduced congestion and improved passenger flows. AirportConnect Open will provide Tribhuvan International Airport with the flexibility to cope with peaks in traffic during the busiest times of the year for tourism and trade. SITA is very pleased to contribute towards making Nepal a first-class holiday destination."

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Notes to Editors:

About SITA

SITA is the world's leading specialist in air transport communications and IT solutions. SITA delivers and manages business solutions for airline, airport, GDS, government and other

customers over the world's most extensive network, which forms the communications backbone of the global air transport industry.

SITA's portfolio includes managed global communications, infrastructure and outsourcing services, as well as services for airline commercial management and passenger operations, flight operations, aircraft operations and air-to-ground communications, airport management and operations, baggage operations, transportation security and border management, cargo operations and more.

With a customer service team of over 2,000 staff around the world, SITA invests significantly in achieving best-in-class customer service, providing integrated local and global support for both its communications and IT application services.

SITA has two main subsidiaries: OnAir, which is the leading provider of in-flight connectivity, and CHAMP Cargosystems, the world's only IT company dedicated solely to air cargo. SITA also operates two joint ventures providing services to the air transport community: Aviareto for aircraft asset management and CertiPath for secure electronic identity management.

SITA is one of the world's most international companies. Its global reach is based on local presence, with services for more than 500 air transport industry members and 2,700 customers in over 200 countries and territories. Set up in 1949 with 11 member airlines, SITA today employs people of more than 140 nationalities, speaking over 70 different languages. SITA had consolidated revenues of over US\$1.46 billion in 2010.

For further information go to www.sita.aero

About CAAN/TIACAO

Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN) was established as an autonomous regulatory body on 31 December 1998 under Civil Aviation Act, 1996. CAAN has been set up with the objective of making aviation safe, regular, standard and efficient. Its prime goal is to ensure flight safety and sustainability of civil aviation. It has the responsibilities of constructing, operating and maintaining airports. Besides, it has also to equip the airports with necessary communications and navigational facilities.

Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) owned and operated by CAAN/Civil Aviation Office (TIACAO), is the only international airport in the country and is the gateway of Nepal by air route. More than 85 % of the tourists arrive in Nepal by air. Thus, TIA is the first destination of tourists in Nepal.

The Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA), situated 5.56 km east of Kathmandu city is in the heart of the Kathmandu Valley. TIA is amid the confluence of three ancient cities viz. Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Patan, rich in their art and culture not only gifted for their temples and pagoda - but above all they possess smiling men and women, the pride of the nation. Hence TIA not only has flourished as the main hub for every expanding business of the country but has proudly catered to various domestic and international airlines.