

MEDIA RELEASE

Airnorth flies 150 bikes for Tour de Timor

Northern Australia's premier Airline, Airnorth, is once again looking forward to the logistical challenge of carrying over 150 bikes to Dili, East Timor, for the start of the 2011 Tour De Timor.

Recognised as one of the toughest mountain bike races in Asia, Airnorth have been a major sponsor since the race's inception in 2009, and this year will see the Airline provide over \$130,000 in sponsorship and support for event.

Airnorth's CEO Ms Simone Saunders expects this year to be the best event yet.

"This is the third year of the Tour and each year we're able to further refine our processes to effectively manage the large movements of bikes and support equipment to and from Dili whilst continuing to meet the needs of our regular customers on this route, and their luggage and freight requirements," said Ms Saunders.

"Our Darwin and Dili based teams really have the logistics down to a fine art when transporting this volume of bikes in our E170 Jet hulls," she said.

"As the only full service Jet carrier currently operating out of Darwin to Timor-Leste, we have the capacity and experience to move such a high volume of freight and have done so for the Tour de Timor over the past couple of years," said Ms Saunders.

"We have proudly been operating services to Dili for over 10 years and are very committed to continuing our support of peace and development in Timor-Leste through tourism and sport," she said.

Airnorth have been a major sponsor of the Timor-Leste President's events since 2009 and this includes the Tour de Timor, Dili Marathon, Sunset Fair Markets and the Com Fishing Festival.

Airnorth's commitment to Timor-Leste was also recently recognised at the 2011 Chief Minister's Export and Industry Awards where they were awarded as the **NT Exporter of the Year** and also took out the **Large Services Award** for outstanding export achievement in a recognised services industry with total annual sales of \$15 million or more.

ends.

For more information contact:

Tammy Baczynski

Marketing & Communications Manager

Ph: +61 8 8920 4058

tammy.baczynski@airnorth.com.au

www.airnorth.com.au

Company background

Headquartered in Darwin, Airnorth is now the major airline based in Northern Australia and carries in excess of 250,000 passengers annually. The airline operates over 180 departures weekly, serving 15 destinations in the Northern Territory, Western Australia, Queensland and Timor-Leste including:

Darwin	Dili (Timor-Leste)	Elcho Island
Gold Coast	Gove (Nhulunbuy)	Groote Eylandt
Karratha	Kununurra	Broome
Maningrida	McArthur River	Milingimbi
Mount Isa	Perth	Port Hedland

Airnorth, through its partnership with Qantas Airways, code shares on most Jet routes and passengers can earn and redeem Qantas frequent flyer points on all services.

Airnorth is a full service carrier accommodating both business and leisure travellers providing passengers complimentary catering, operating state-of-art regional jets through its interstate network.

In addition to scheduled departures, Airnorth operates contract and ad-hoc charter services for a wide variety of companies undertaking mining, defence and government activity.

Airnorth directly employs more than 200 staff in Darwin and provides indirect employment through the contracting of ground service operations across all its destinations.

