



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Airnorth wins 2011 NT Exporter of the Year Award

Airnorth is proud to announce it has been awarded as the **2011 NT Exporter of the Year** as well as receiving the **Large Services Award** at the Northern Territory's Chief Minister's Export and Industry Awards.

As the most celebrated business awards held in the Territory each year, Airnorth's Chief Executive Officer, Ms Simone Saunders is pleased to have the airline's contribution to the NT economy over the past 30 years recognised at such a prestigious level.

"We have developed our business model over many years. With our mix of RPT scheduled services, contracted and ad hoc charter services, we've secured a broad customer and revenue base, from which the business has grown," said Ms Saunders.

"Added to this is our long term contracts with national and international corporations and our alliance with Qantas that provides worldwide distribution of Airnorth services, code share, frequent flyer and seamless connectivity with the Qantas network," she said.

Airnorth's selection of fuel efficient Embraer jet aircraft was another strategic decision designed to keep costs and emissions to a minimum. Airnorth is currently operating three Jets throughout the network with a fourth due to come online in early 2013.

"We have always focused on delivering the highest standard of services to our customers, in particular from Timor-Leste, where we have been operating for over 10 years and currently provide the only Jet service from Darwin," said Ms Saunders.

"We also contribute this success to the high calibre of staff we have here at Airnorth. It is their hard work and commitment that's helped to get the company where it is today," she said.

The Chief Minister's Awards recognise the important contribution that NT businesses make to the local economy through job creation and increased prosperity in the community. As the NT winner Airnorth will now be entered into the Prime Minister's Exporter of the Year Awards in Brisbane in December.

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## ***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.

