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NEWS RELEASE

Mayor Liccardo Announces First-Ever Nonstop Service on British Airways to London Heathrow from Silicon Valley's Airport

- Daily Service on Modern Boeing 787-900 Dreamliner to Begin May 4, 2016 -

San José, Calif. – San José Mayor Sam Liccardo today announced new nonstop service on [British Airways](#) between London Heathrow International Airport (LHR) and [Mineta San José International Airport](#) (SJC), marking first-ever nonstop transatlantic service between the United Kingdom (UK) and Silicon Valley. Joining the news conference at SJC was British Airways Senior Vice President – North America Simon Brooks who also announced the service will begin May 4, 2016, and special roundtrip fares will be on sale beginning August 27 on www.ba.com.

British Airways will offer daily service on the London-Silicon Valley route, operating the [Boeing 787-900 Dreamliner](#), one of the most technologically advanced passenger planes. The 216-seat, four-cabin class Dreamliner will offer eight seats in the airline's newly-designed First cabin (a first for the airline's 787 fleet), 42 seats in Club World (business class), 39 in World Traveller Plus (premium economy) and 127 in World Traveller (economy).

"We are thrilled to be bringing our most technically advanced aircraft to the tech center of the world," said Brooks. "We want to give the business community in and around Silicon Valley more options to access the UK and Europe, quickly and easily."

"Choice and flexibility when flying are critical for our Bay area customers so we believe this new service will be a welcome addition to our network. With connections beyond London to over 130 destinations around the world, we're delighted that we can bring the world just a bit closer."

"San José and Silicon Valley tech companies have committed to Mineta San José International as being their airport of choice, and have expressed strong support for a direct flight to London for several years," said Mayor Liccardo. "The British Airways announcement to launch service between San José and London Heathrow will be well received by both business and leisure travelers in our region. The San José City Council joins me in thanking British Airways for its significant investment in San José, and will work in partnership to make this route an unqualified success."

(more)

British Airways' new SJC-LHR flight will operate as follows:

Flight Number	City Pair	Departs	Arrives
BA 278	San Jose – London	8:00 p.m.	2:05 p.m. (<i>next day</i>)
BA 279	London – San Jose	3:15 p.m.	6:05 p.m. (<i>same day</i>)

* Flights operate daily. * All times are local. * Average flight time is 10 hours. *

* Flights arrive & depart British Airways' state-of-the-art home in LHR's Terminal 5. *

* SJC terminal information TBA. *

* Visit www.ba.com for special fares and information. *

Connections through London Heathrow's Terminal 5 are possible on British Airways' extensive network to and from over 130 cities including several in Germany and India, and Dublin, Ireland. The airline is part of the oneworld alliance, consisting of 15 airlines and serves 1,015 destinations in 154 countries.

London has been identified as a priority travel route for the greater San José region that has significant business and personal links to the UK and beyond. Silicon Valley companies have 428 locations throughout the UK and UK companies have 118 locations in Silicon Valley. Nearly all major Silicon Valley tech companies have European headquarters in London and several offices located throughout continental Europe. Nonstop service to London with connections to over 130 cities offers the opportunity to enhance business and improve travel efficiency.

"London is the No. 1 requested international destination from Mineta San José International Airport, and we're so pleased to share the news today that we have delivered this service to Silicon Valley businesses and residents," said Director of Aviation Kim Becker. "We warmly welcome British Airways and the innovative Boeing 787-900 Dreamliner to San José, and know our mutual customers will also enjoy SJC's convenience, on-time performance, and technologically-advanced facilities and services."

SJC recently completed renovations to two boarding gates, doubling the airport's international gate capacity and improving passenger handling flexibility. Arriving international passengers receive expedited processing and reduced wait times with automated Global Entry kiosks in SJC's International Arrivals facility. Among the airport's 50 concessions, a duty free store located next to the international gates opened in August offering the ultimate experience in luxury shopping.

London service is the fourth nonstop market for SJC announced in 2015. [Hainan Airlines](#) launched service to Beijing, China, in June. [Southwest Airlines](#) launched a daily flight to Dallas (Love Field) in April, and will double this service beginning Nov. 1, 2015. [Alaska Airlines](#) will add nonstop service to Eugene, Oregon on Nov. 5, 2015.

Other nonstop international service offered at SJC includes Hainan's five-weekly flights to Beijing and [ANA's](#) daily flight to Tokyo-Narita, both on the Dreamliner; daily flights to Guadalajara on Alaska Airlines and [Volaris](#); and Alaska's five weekly flights to Cabo San Lucas.

(more)

About British Airways

British Airways, part of International Airlines Group, is one of the world's leading global premium airlines and the largest international carrier in the UK. The carrier has its home base at London Heathrow and flies to more than 70 different countries. The airline currently has a fleet of more than 270 aircraft.

The airline's 787-9 Dreamliner will accommodate eight customers in the new First cabin, 42 seats in Club World, 39 in World Traveller Plus and 127 in World Traveller. Lower pressurization means less dry cabin air, leaving customers feeling more refreshed with less jet lag while the aircraft's smooth ride technology reduces the effect of turbulence. Soothing mood lighting in every cabin gradually adjusts to reflect the time of day and the large windows feature electronic dimming switches. The 787-9, the first of which is due to be delivered to British Airways in September, is 20 feet longer than its 787-8 predecessor.

All British Airways customers can enjoy complimentary checked baggage, free meals and bar service, along with extensive on-demand movies, TV and music options on their personal TV screens. Learn more and purchase tickets at www.ba.com or 1-800-AIRWAYS (1-800-247-9297).

About Mineta San José International Airport

Mineta San José International Airport (SJC) is Silicon Valley's airport, a self-supporting enterprise owned and operated by the City of San José. SJC served 9.6 million passengers in Fiscal Year 2015, a 5.4 percent increase year-over-year. With the launch of British Airways service to London Heathrow in May 2016, SJC will offer approximately 142 peak daily flights on 12 domestic and international carriers to 33 nonstop destinations.

SJC's five-star customer service experience sets it apart from other Bay Area and US airports. Airlines and passengers respond positively to SJC's customer amenities, including modern terminal buildings, free and fast WiFi, comfortable seating with built-in power outlets, a luxurious, award-winning lounge open to all travelers, a duty free store offering the ultimate experience in luxury shopping, a rental car center conveniently located across from the terminals and Global Entry kiosks to expedite arriving international passengers. Silicon Valley's airport is located in San José, California's third largest city and the nation's tenth largest city. SJC facts can be found [here](#). For more airport information, visit www.flysanjose.com.