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ComBTAS Enters UK Business Travel Market to Help Organisations Shrink Travel Expenditure and Help Reduce Expense Fraud

UKTI recognises travel and expense management company ComBTAS as having 'exceptional global potential'

6 July, 2011, London – Corporate travel management software company ComBTAS has entered the UK market to respond to a proven and growing need for UK organisations to cut travel and expense costs, without compromising the travel required to boost their business.

With nearly seven per cent of the average company's annual budget allocated to business travel¹, advanced technology, now available to the UK market, can play a significant role in reducing this bottom-line spend, while also helping organisations reduce their carbon footprint and even curtail expense fraud.

ComBTAS' innovative software has proven to save public and commercial organisations on average 23 per cent² of their travel budget.

The highest savings - of up to 30 per cent - on travel and expense budgets are achieved through rigorous pre-trip policy planning, the enforcement of travel policy and budget control. For corporate travel agencies, savings are also realised through the speed, accuracy and breadth of alternative travel options based on a level of market intelligence previously unavailable in the industry.

"Business travel is a necessity for all UK organisations but it's still a significant cost on the bottom line. These same organisations, however, can potentially make up to 30% savings on their travel and expense budgets and even effectively manage expense fraud with the latest technology that puts

¹ *Aberdeen Group: Expense Management for a New decade, March 2011*

² 23 per cent savings based on ComBTAS' client portfolio, where 80% of annual travel spend is between £0.5 million and £40 million

the right authorization policies in place and gives access to travel data previously unavailable. This is good business sense in a normal economic climate but vital in times of austerity,” said Dr. Steven Freudmann, Non-Executive Director of ComBTAS UK. “Budget holders want absolute control and clarity on where their money is being spent and by whom, yet employees want the choice and control to get to a meeting, event or conference with minimal fuss. ComBTAS’ simple mission is to make the business travel process for organisations more efficient, clear and economical.”

ComBTAS’ entry to the UK has received Green light status from UK Trade and Investment’s (UK TI) Global Entrepreneur Programme as a ‘technology of exceptional potential’.

“We constantly seek out the best worldwide entrepreneurs and technologies for the next big thing, the next Google. Having thoroughly reviewed their achievements to date and following our initial technological and commercial evaluation, we view ComBTAS as a proposition of exceptional global potential,” said Andrew Humphries, Dealmaker for the UK Trade & Investment’s Global Entrepreneur Programme. “ComBTAS has a specialised product that will have huge appeal to any company managing a travel budget. The UK is a natural home for a company such as this. Not only will their product appeal to the domestic market but from the UK they will be able to exploit foreign markets abroad equally successfully.”

ComBTAS’ intuitive software adds a previously unavailable layer of comprehensive real-time data on all business travel activities from trains, planes, rental cars and hotels to travel agents and in-house travel departments. Using complex algorithms, the software can intelligently calculate the best value travel on a rating system that includes the cost of the train or flight, as well as the time-cost associated with the seniority of the traveller and transfer and waiting times. Corporate policies including a carrier’s carbon emissions can easily be built in to cater for organisations looking to maintain or reduce their carbon footprint. Meanwhile, users can access the system easily via mobile and smartphones and their web browser.

Alvarion, the worldwide leader in 4G wireless broadband solutions operating in 130 countries worldwide, is working with ComBTAS across its global operations. As a result, since 2008 the company, who manages thousands of trips per year, has not once exceeded its travel budget and with the strict enforcement of its travel policy on a global scale has realised substantial financial savings.

“Travel is an absolute necessity in our business as we have customers all over the globe, but managing this globally is complicated and a big operational cost,” said Eyal Ben Ari IT Applications Director, Alvarion. “With ComBTAS we have been able to strip costs off our bottom line and have greater visibility and control of our budget without compromising the travel requirements we have.”

ComBTAS is working with public sector and commercial clients outside the UK including The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Finance, global high street retail chains and telecoms companies.

About ComBTAS

ComBTAS is a leading provider of travel and expense management solutions to corporate and small medium enterprises (SMEs) and travel management companies. With comBTAS’ comprehensive, yet easy to use system, companies efficiently manage corporate travel and achieve their operational targets of reducing travel costs, optimize travel expenditure and ensuring implementation of company travel procedures and policies. www.combtas.com

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