

## Carlson Wagonlit Travel launch new carbon calculator

*Carbon calculator will help business travellers count the carbon cost*

**BUSINESS TRAVEL SHOW, LONDON - 13<sup>th</sup> February 2007** - A new carbon calculator which allows business travellers to calculate and compare the carbon cost of travel options at the point of booking has been launched by Carlson Wagonlit Travel (CWT). CWT has been working closely with its client Defra to develop the first phase of the carbon calculator. Use of the carbon calculator will now be rolled out across Defra.

Further development is already underway, leading towards a new online integrated self-booking tool which will show travellers the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted by a planned journey alongside the financial cost - and suggest a less 'carbon heavy' option. It is envisaged that the tool will be made available to other CWT clients from April 2007.

Defra – the Department for Environment, Food and Rural affairs - promotes sustainable development and aims to achieve a reduction in UK and global greenhouse gas emissions to avoid climate change and has a target to move towards a 20 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2010 in line with UK Government commitments.

Jonathan Green, Sustainable Travel Manager for Defra and Chair of the Civil Service Travel Group commented: "This initiative is a positive example of how the travel industry can tackle the important environmental issues that impact on all businesses and organisations.

Said Green; "Changing the behaviour of travellers will require a range of new products and services which allow them to make more sense of the options available to them and provide them with enough information to make responsible choices about their travel arrangements.

According to Green, balancing the cost of travel with the impact of emissions is a huge challenge that businesses need to face. "This is particularly true as shareholders become more aware of the importance of corporate social responsibility and the environment," he said.

David Tibbles, Global Product Director - Online Booking, CWT said that as the carbon calculator continues to develop there would be significant benefits for travel providers in addition to business travellers.

Said Tibbles; "This is an incredibly powerful way of demonstrating the options available to individuals in terms of reducing the impact of travel on the carbon 'footprint'. We envisage that further phases of the carbon calculator will incorporate increasingly detailed information and features such as a comparison

of emissions by different airline routes depending on the type of aircraft operated. We will also start to look at the hotel market in a similar way”.

"A significant number of organisations are looking to ramp up their efforts in terms of environmental reporting" added Tibbles. "CWT is able to work with clients to help refine their travel policies and processes accordingly. The new carbon calculator is the latest in a series of developments in this area, and will ultimately provide organisations with the means to monitor carbon emissions from travel, for reporting purposes and assessment against sustainability targets."

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### **Notes to Editor**

#### **About Carlson Wagonlit Travel**

Carlson Wagonlit Travel is a world leader in business travel management, partnering with large corporations, small and medium-sized companies, and government institutions in nearly 150 countries and territories. CWT designs and implements superior travel management programs for clients based upon its recognized consulting expertise, strong purchasing power, technological strength, and consistent delivery of high-quality service.

For more information, please visit [www.carlsonwagonlit.com](http://www.carlsonwagonlit.com).

Earlier this year, CWT was awarded preferred supplier status to manage the OGCBuying.solutions business travel programme. OGCBuying solutions is the executive agency of OGC, the Office of Government Commerce, an independent office of the UK Treasury that works with public sector organizations to gain the best possible value for money from procurement. CWT is a preferred supplier for rail, air and ferry, and hotel bookings; as well as conference and meetings arrangements. This enables customers to utilise one supplier for all these requirements.

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