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JAAN ALBRECHT NAMED 2010 TONY JANNUS AWARD WINNER

--CEO of Star Alliance Honored for Contributions to Commercial Aviation--

ST. PETERSBURG, FLA. (March 23, 2010) – Jaan Albrecht, the CEO of Star Alliance, the world's first and most experienced airline alliance, has been named the recipient of the 2010 Tony Jannus Award. Celebrating those with outstanding achievements, leadership and perseverance within the airlines industry, the Tony Jannus Distinguished Aviation Society will present the Award to Albrecht at a dinner banquet at the Renaissance Vinoy Resort on Friday, October 29, 2010.

In the eyes of the selection committee, Albrecht was a the driving force behind Star Alliance since assuming the position in 2001 and was instrumental in contributing to the growth and integration of the group of currently 26 member airlines. The Star Alliance network consists of some of the most respected airline names in aviation. In order to become members, all airlines must comply with the highest industry standards of safety, customer service and technical infrastructure. Together, they offer comfortable, convenient travel to nearly any destination in the world.

Through the efforts of the more than 458,000 people employed at the 26 member airlines, more than 600 million passengers per year travel on 3,993 aircraft to 175 different countries.

Prior to his current position, Albrecht held several leadership roles with Mexicana Airlines, where he entered the aviation business as a pilot in 1973. Serving 20 years as a First Officer, Captain, and Chief Pilot, he was later appointed to Senior Vice President of Operations, and subsequently of Sales and Marketing for Mexicana. He has served the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations as Vice President. After having worked in executive positions at AeroPeru he was appointed Aeromexpress' Chief Executive Officer in 1999, an all-cargo airline based in Mexico City. Albrecht holds a degree in architecture from The Technical University of Mexico, and is fluent in English, Spanish and German.

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About the Tony Jannus Award: Since its first nominee in 1964, the Tony Jannus list of winners has grown to a virtual “Who’s Who” in the industry, including such luminaries as Brigadier General Charles Yeager, Donald W. Douglas, Sr., Capt. Edward V. Rickenbacker, Col. Frank Borman, Herb Kelleher, Sir Richard Branson, Joseph Leonard, Colleen Barrett and the 2008 honoree Larry Kellner of Continental Airlines. In addition to the Tony Jannus Award program, the Tony Jannus Distinguished Aviation Society recognizes outstanding local students with an annual essay contest and presents cash awards to deserving university students as part of the Society's Scholarships Awards Program.

The Tampa and St. Petersburg Chambers of Commerce established The Tony Jannus Distinguished Aviation Society in 1964. The Smithsonian Institute recognized Tony Jannus as the founder of the world’s first scheduled airline. The airline - which began flights on New Year’s Day, 1914 - had only one plane, a single-engine Benoist flying boat that flew round trips daily between Tampa and St. Petersburg, Florida. For more information on the Tony Jannus Distinguished Aviation Society please visit TonyJannus.org.

About Star Alliance: The Star Alliance network was established in 1997 as the first truly global airline alliance to offer worldwide reach, recognition and seamless service to the international traveler. Its acceptance by the market has been recognized by numerous awards, including the Air Transport World Market Leadership Award, Best Airline Alliance by both Business Traveller Magazine and Skytrax. The member airlines are: Adria Airways, Air Canada, Air China, Air New Zealand, ANA, Asiana Airlines, Austrian, Blue1, bmi, Brussels Airlines, Continental Airlines, Croatia Airlines, EGYPTAIR, LOT Polish Airlines, Lufthansa, Scandinavian Airlines, Shanghai Airlines, Singapore Airlines, South African Airways, Spanair, SWISS, TAP Portugal, Turkish Airlines, THAI, United and US Airways. Aegean Airlines, Air India and TAM have been announced as future members. Overall, the Star Alliance network offers 19,700 daily flights to 1,077 airports in 175 countries.

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