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Third Singapore-Based Budget Airline Jets off from Changi Airport

Qantas-backed no-frills carrier Jetstar Asia Airways took off from Singapore Changi Airport today on its maiden flight. The airline is the third Singapore-based low cost carrier to launch operations this year from the world's 7th busiest airport in terms of international passenger traffic. Jetstar Asia is also the 9th new airline to commence operations at Changi Airport this year.

Jetstar Asia's inaugural flight was sent off from Changi Airport amid a buzz of activity in a ceremony officiated by Mrs Lim Hwee Hua, Minister of State for Finance and Transport; and attended by Mr Wong Woon Liong, Director-General of Civil Aviation; Mr Geoff Dixon, Chairman of Jetstar Asia and Mr Con Korfiatis, Jetstar Asia's Chief Operating Officer.

Speaking at the event, Mrs Lim said, "The birth of Jetstar Asia, as a Singapore-based carrier, is testimony to the close relations between Australia and Singapore. Qantas is already the largest foreign carrier based at Changi. This latest investment by Qantas enables it to tap into the wider aviation market in Asia, which offers tremendous business and growth opportunities. The increased network of services provided by both Qantas and Jetstar Asia will mean wider access to more cities and exotic destinations within South East Asia, with Singapore as a convenient connecting point."

With the launch of Jetstar Asia, Changi Airport is now served by 75 airlines operating more than 3,700 flights to over 170 cities in 55 countries.