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May 4, 2016

NEWS RELEASE

British Airways Launches First-Ever Nonstop Service to London Heathrow from Silicon Valley's Airport

*- Daily Service on High-Tech Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner;
Google Tango Demo "Piloted" During Event -*

San José, Calif. – San José Mayor Sam Liccardo joined today with International Airlines Group CEO Willie Walsh and [British Airways](#) Senior Vice President – North America Simon Brooks and other city and Silicon Valley business leaders to launch the first-ever nonstop transatlantic service between [Mineta San José International Airport](#) (SJC) and London Heathrow Airport (LHR). British Airways is connecting the two high-tech business hubs daily with the state-of-the-art Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner.

"We mark an important milestone in the history of San José and Silicon Valley today by partnering with British Airways to launch the first-ever nonstop service to London," said San José Mayor Sam Liccardo. "London is the No. 1 requested international destination from Mineta San José International Airport, and we're pleased to now offer it to business and leisure travelers in our region. British Airways' new service is the first of four international flights we will inaugurate in the next few weeks, reflecting the growing importance of the Silicon Valley region globally."

The event held at SJC's Terminal B, British Airways' new home in San José, joined the best of Silicon Valley and the Silicon Roundabout in London. A Beefeater led guests in procession to Gate 18 where the ceremony was held; a selfie station, featuring an image of the River Thames and Mad Hatter hats, virtually transported passengers and guests to San José's newest destination; and a selection of high tea refreshments were offered during the late-afternoon event.

The star of the show, however, was British Airways' brand-new 787-9 Dreamliner which rolled off the Boeing production line in fall 2015. The 216-seat, four-cabin aircraft offers 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).

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Simon Brooks, senior vice president for British Airways North America, said, "Our customers in the Silicon Valley tech and business community want efficiency and premium quality. San José will be the fourth city from which we fly in California and we are pleased to be able to offer our valued Bay Area travelers more flight options and quick, easy access to London and beyond."

The daily flight schedule allows travelers in both Silicon Valley and London to enjoy a day of business or leisure activities, with enough time to get to the airport for departure:

Flight Number	City Pair	Departs	Arrives
279	London – San José	3:25 p.m.	6:15 p.m. (<i>same day</i>)
278	San José – London	8:05 p.m.	2:10 p.m. (<i>next day</i>)

- Flights operate daily. - Times are local. - Average flight time is 10 hours.

- Flights arrive & depart SJC's Terminal B and British Airways' state-of-the-art facilities in LHR's Terminal 5.

- Visit www.ba.com for fares and information.

SJC highlighted its commitment to innovation as part of the event with a prototype demo of its new "Explore SJC" 3D augmented reality app.

Using Project Tango "loaner" handheld devices, passengers and guests were able to see virtual 3D graphics and signage with facts about the destination of the next departing flight at each gate. They also received point of interest pop-ups about nearby restaurants. Ultimately the app will expand to include wayfinding assistance and proximity-based search functionality for SJC restaurants and shops.

Project Tango, a set of sensors from Google, gives smartphones the ability to navigate the physical world similar to how we do as humans, allowing for new experiences in utility, gaming, and navigation. Lenovo will be launching the first consumer device with Project Tango in the summer of 2016. This will give consumers access to experiences like "Explore SJC" and more.

"Silicon Valley is the tech center of the world, and it's fitting that we feature our high-tech partners and products today as British Airways connects our region and the Silicon Roundabout for the first time," said Director of Aviation Kim Becker. "We join with our businesses and residents in warmly welcoming British Airways and the innovative Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner to San José, and will continue to work in partnership to make this important route an unqualified success."

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 over 1,000 destinations around the world.

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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.

British Airways' London service is the first of four nonstop international flights to launch from SJC in 2016. [Air Canada](#) will begin service to Vancouver, British Columbia, on May 9. [Lufthansa](#) starts service to Frankfurt, Germany, on July 1. [Air China](#) has received U.S. DOT approval for Shanghai service, with flights expected to begin this summer.

Other nonstop international service offered at SJC includes [Hainan](#) to Beijing and [ANA](#) to Tokyo-Narita, both on the Dreamliner 787-8; daily flights to Guadalajara on Alaska Airlines and [Volaris](#); and Alaska flights to Cabo San Lucas.

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. Learn more at www.ba.com

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 9.8 million passengers in Calendar Year 2015, a 4.4 percent increase year-over-year. SJC offers approximately 160 peak daily departures on 13 domestic and international carriers to 36 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 an enhanced shopping experience, 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.