

# PROFITABLE GROWTH IN 2017 IN A CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENT

- Year's EBITDA USD 170.2 million, as compared to USD 219.8 million in 2016
- Year's profit after taxes USD 37.7 million, as compared to USD 89.1 million in 2016
- EBITDA in Q4 negative by USD 16.9 million, down between years
- Total revenue increased by 14% over the 4th quarter
- Equity ratio 42% at year-end
- EBITDA guidance for 2018 USD 170-190 million

| USD thousands                              | Q4 2017 | Q4 2016 | Chg.     | % Chg. | 12M<br>2017 | 12M<br>2016 | Chg.     | % Chg. |
|--|---------|---------|----------|--------|-------------|-------------|----------|--------|
| Operating results                          |         |         |          |        |             |             |          |        |
| Total income                               | 292,239 | 256,472 | 35,767   | 14%    | 1,419,528   | 1,285,574   | 133,954  | 10%    |
| EBITDAR                                    | -5,843  | 12,007  | -17,850  | -      | 207,914     | 254,960     | -47,046  | -18%   |
| EBITDA                                     | -16,888 | 2,453   | -19,341  | -      | 170,225     | 219,845     | -49,620  | -23%   |
| EBIT                                       | -46,291 | -24,367 | -21,924  | -      | 49,794      | 118,437     | -68,643  | -58%   |
| EBT  | -48,128 | -22,194 | -25,934  | -      | 48,791      | 120,111     | -71,320  | -59%   |
| Profit/Loss for the period                 | -40,043 | -22,870 | -17,173  | -      | 37,657      | 89,068      | -51,411  | -58%   |
| Balance sheet                              |         |         |          |        |             |             |          |        |
| Total assets                               | -       | -       | -        | -      | 1,415,090   | 1,292,493   | 122,597  | 9%     |
| Total equity                               | -       | -       | -        | -      | 591,535     | 568,213     | 23,322   | 4%     |
| Interest bearing debt                      | -       | -       | -        | -      | 289,541     | 242,382     | 47,159   | 19%    |
| Cash and short term investment             | -       | -       | -        | -      | 225,278     | 250,125     | -24,847  | -10%   |
| Net interest bearing debt                  | -       | -       | -        | -      | 64,263      | -7,743      | 72,006   | -      |
| Cash flow                                  |         |         |          |        |             |             |          |        |
| Net cash to/from operating activities      | 9,054   | -39,471 | 48,525   | -      | 205,603     | 209,024     | -3,421   | -2%    |
| Net cash used in investing activities      | -48,186 | -69,986 | 21,800   | -31%   | -228,419    | -291,759    | 63,340   | -22%   |
| Net cash used in/from financing activities | -151    | 147,727 | -147,878 | -      | 14,554      | 113,643     | -99,089  | -      |
| Cash and cash equivalents end of period    | 221,191 | 226,889 | -5,698   | -3%    | 221,191     | 226,889     | -5,698   | -3%    |
| Key Ratios                                 |         |         |          |        |             |             |          |        |
| Profit per share expressed in US Cent      | -0.82   | -0.46   | -0.36    | 78%    | 0.77        | 1.79        | -1.02    | -57%   |
| Intrinsic value                            | -       | -       | -        | -      | 14.95       | 13.99       | 0.96     | 7%     |
| Equity ratio                               | -       | -       | -        | -      | 42%         | 44%         | -2.2 ppt | -5%    |
| Current ratio                              | -       | -       | -        | -      | 0.98        | 0.92        | 0.06     | 7%     |
| CAPEX USD thousand                         | 41,503  | 39,723  | 1,780    | 4%     | 166,131     | 243,397     | -77,266  | -32%   |
| Transport revenue as % of total revenues   | 69.6%   | 72.4%   | -2.8 ppt | -      | 72.8%       | 73.7%       | -0.9 ppt | -1%    |
| EBITDAR ratio                              | -2.0%   | 4.7%    | -6.7 ppt | -      | 14.6%       | 19.8%       | -5.2 ppt | -26%   |
| EBITDA ratio                               | -5.8%   | 1.0%    | -6.7 ppt | -      | 12.0%       | 17.1%       | -5.1 ppt | -30%   |
| Share information ISK                      |         |         |          |        |             |             |          |        |
| Highest price in period                    | 16.90   | 26.53   | -9.63    | -36%   | 23.53       | 38.90       | -15.37   | -40%   |
| Lowest price in period                     | 14.12   | 22.95   | -8.83    | -38%   | 13.13       | 22.95       | -9.82    | -43%   |
| Price at period end                        | -       | -       | -        | -      | 14.71       | 23.10       | -8.39    | -36%   |
| Market Cap at period end (millions)        |         |         | _        | -      | 73,550      | 115,000     | -41,450  | -36%   |



# BJÖRGÓLFUR JÓHANNSSON, PRESIDENT AND CEO

"The year's performance is in line with our last EBITDA guidance. The Company's profitable growth continues, and our strong financial position and flexibility enable us to respond to new circumstances and seize new attractive and exciting market opportunities. The Company transported a record number of over four million passengers on international flights over the year.

At the end of this month we will take delivery of our first 737-MAX aircraft. The arrival of the aircraft represents a certain milestone as the start of the renewal of our fleet, a large and exciting undertaking. We have in recent months made some changes in our product offerings with new options for customers, such as Economy Light. Furthermore, flights have been introduced to seven new destinations. Innovations and adaptations of this kind reflect the Company's flexibility and financial strength, enabling us to respond to the demands of a constantly changing market.

Competition is fierce in all our markets. The booking status for the first half of the year in international transport is good, but there is considerable uncertainty regarding the second half of the year, especially with regard to average fare trends. The Company's earnings guidance for 2018 reflects this uncertainty, with EBITDA projected at 170-190 million USD.

At the beginning of this year we announced a new structure for the Company. The change will bring about a clearer focus on our core business and at the same time streamline our processes with shorter lines of communications and improved operational efficiency. This will make us better positioned to take on a volatile business environment resulting from advancing globalisation and changes in technology. As usual, the Company's talented staff has done an outstanding job and our customers have faith in us. We are grateful for their continuing trust."



### TRANSPORT FIGURES

- Record number of Icelandair passengers in 2017: 4.0 million, up by 10%
- Passengers on international flights in Q4 798.1 thousand, and passenger load factor 78.9%
- Room occupancy in the Company's hotels 81.2% in 2017

|   | Q4 2017 | Q4 2016 | Change   | 12M 2017 | 12M 2016 | Change   |
|---|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS                   |         |         |          |          |          |          |
| Number of passengers ('000)             | 798.1   | 769.5   | 4%       | 4,045.5  | 3,674.4  | 10%      |
| Load factor (%)                         | 78.9    | 79.8    | -0.8 ppt | 82.5     | 82.2     | 0.4 ppt  |
| Available seat kilometers (ASK'000,000) | 3,137.8 | 2,952.7 | 6%       | 15,245.6 | 13,653.3 | 12%      |
| DOMESTIC- AND GREENLAND FLIGHTS         |         |         |          |          |          |          |
| Number of passengers ('000)             | 80.4    | 72.5    | 11%      | 349.3    | 327.4    | 7%       |
| Load factor (%)                         | 60.3    | 63.7    | -3.3 ppt | 65.9     | 68.3     | -2.5 ppt |
| Available seat kilometers (ASK'000,000) | 49.1    | 40.8    | 20%      | 214.5    | 191.2    | 12%      |
| CHARTER                                 |         |         |          |          |          |          |
| Fleet Utilisation (%)                   | 100.0   | 100.0   | 0.0 ppt  | 98.1     | 88.9     | 9.2 ppt  |
| Sold Block Hours                        | 7,557   | 5,488   | 38%      | 27,460   | 23,523   | 17%      |
| CARGO                                   |         |         |          |          |          |          |
| Freight Tonne Kilometers (FTK'000)      | 30,961  | 26,520  | 14%      | 117,311  | 105,925  | 11%      |
| HOTELS                                  |         |         |          |          |          |          |
| Available Hotel Room Nights             | 82,463  | 82,493  | 0%       | 371,289  | 352,214  | 5%       |
| Sold Hotel Room Nights                  | 63,228  | 62,871  | 1%       | 301,302  | 287,160  | 5%       |
| Occupancy of Hotel Rooms (%)            | 76.7    | 76.2    | 0.5 ppt  | 81.2     | 81.5     | -0.4 ppt |

The North Atlantic market was the Company's largest market, accounting for 52% of the total number of passengers in 2017. The growth in passenger numbers was also greatest in that market, at 15% between years.

| Passenger mix in '000 | Q4 2017 | Q4 2016 | % of total<br>2017 | 12M 2017 | 12M 2016 | % of total<br>2017 |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|--------------------|----------|----------|--------------------|
| То                    | 285.9   | 285.2   | 36%                | 1,459.8  | 1,396.3  | 36%                |
| From                  | 131.1   | 122.8   | 16%                | 469.6    | 440.9    | 12%                |
| Via                   | 381.1   | 361.5   | 48%                | 2,116.0  | 1,837.2  | 52%                |
| Total passengers      | 798.1   | 769.5   | 100%               | 4,045.5  | 3,674.4  | 100%               |

# **EXCHANGE RATE TRENDS**

Icelandair Group's reporting currency is the USD. The USD was weaker against the Company's principal trading currencies in the fourth quarter of 2017, as compared to the fourth quarter of 2016.

| Currency | Av. rate<br>Q4. 2017 | Chg. from<br>Q4 2016 | Closing rate 31.12 '17 | Chg. from 31.12 '16 |
|----------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| ISK      | 0.009                | 13%                  | 0.010                  | 9%                  |
| EUR      | 1.164                | 5%                   | 1.200                  | 14%                 |
| GBP      | 1.328                | -2%                  | 1.354                  | 10%                 |
| CAD      | 0,796                | 5%                   | 0,797                  | 7%                  |
| DKK      | 0,157                | 5%                   | 0,161                  | 14%                 |
| SEK      | 0,121                | 3%                   | 0,122                  | 11%                 |



#### **FOURTH-QUARTER OPERATIONS**

| USD thousand        | Q4 2017 | Q4 2016 | Change   |
|---------------------|---------|---------|----------|
| EBITDAR             | -5,843  | 12,007  | -17,850  |
| EBITDA              | -16,888 | 2,453   | -19,341  |
| EBIT                | -46,291 | -24,367 | -21,924  |
| EBT                 | -48,128 | -22,194 | -25,934  |
| Loss for the period | -40,043 | -22,870 | -17,173  |
| EBITDAR %           | -2.0%   | 4.7%    | -6.7 ppt |
| EBITDA %            | -5.8%   | 1.0%    | -6.7 ppt |

EBITDA was negative by USD 16.9 million in the fourth quarter, as compared to a positive result of USD 2.5 million over the corresponding quarter last year. The loss over the quarter amounted to USD 40.0 million, as compared to a loss of USD 22.9 last year. The principal reasons for the decline in results included higher fuel prices: USD 7.1 million, the cost of a strike of the Company's aircraft maintenance engineers in December: USD 4.0 million and restructuring expenses: USD 1.6 million.

#### **REVENUE**

# ■ Total revenue amounted to USD 292 million, 14% above the level of the fourth quarter of 2016

| USD thousand               | Q4 2017 | Q4 2016 | Change | % Change | % of rev. |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|--------|----------|-----------|
| Transport revenue:         | 203,462 | 185,786 | 17,676 | 10%      | 70%       |
| Passengers                 | 186,326 | 171,845 | 14,481 | 8%       | 64%       |
| Cargo and mail             | 17,136  | 13,941  | 3,195  | 23%      | 6%        |
| Aircraft and aircrew lease | 28,396  | 18,375  | 10,021 | 55%      | 10%       |
| Other operating revenue    | 60,381  | 52,311  | 8,070  | 15%      | 21%       |
| Total                      | 292,239 | 256,472 | 35,767 | 14%      | 100%      |

Total revenue increased by 14%. Transport revenue increased by USD 17.7 million between years, or 10%. Passenger revenue increased by 8%, with the largest increase in the North Atlantic market. Revenue from cargo and mail carriage increased by USD 3.2 million, largely as a result of increased goods transport to Iceland. Income from aircraft and aircrew lease amounted to USD 28.4 million, up by USD 10.0 million. The increase is a result of new charter projects, e.g. in the Cape Verde Islands and Samoa. Other operating revenue amounted to USD 60.4 million, up by USD 8.1 million, or 15%, as compared to the fourth quarter of 2016.

| USD thousand                         | Q4 2017 | Q4 2016 | Change | % Change |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|--------|----------|
| Sale at airports and hotels          | 25,274  | 24,721  | 553    | 2%       |
| Revenue from tourism                 | 22,383  | 17,860  | 4,523  | 25%      |
| Aircraft and cargo handling services | 5,892   | 4,377   | 1,515  | 35%      |
| Maintenance revenue                  | 1,026   | 729     | 297    | 41%      |
| Gain on sale of operating assets     | 0       | 46      | -46    | -100%    |
| Other operating revenue              | 5,806   | 4,578   | 1,228  | 27%      |
| Total                                | 60,381  | 52,311  | 8,070  | 15%      |



### **EXPENSES**

- Total expenses USD 309.1 million
- Expenses increased as a result of expanded scope of business, the strengthening of the ISK and general wage hikes

| USD thousand                          | Q4 2017 | Q4 2016 | Change | % Change | % of exp. |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|--------|----------|-----------|
| Salaries and other personnel expenses | 114,998 | 98,175  | 16,823 | 17%      | 37%       |
| Aviation expenses                     | 110,036 | 88,592  | 21,444 | 24%      | 36%       |
| Other operating expenses              | 84,093  | 67,252  | 16,841 | 25%      | 27%       |
| Total                                 | 309,127 | 254,019 | 55,108 | 22%      | 100%      |

Salaries and other personnel expenses amounted to USD 115.0 million, as compared to USD 98.2 million in the fourth quarter of last year. The reasons for the increase are the expanded scope of business, contractual wage increases and the strengthening of the ISK against the USD over the comparison period, as the Company's wage costs are virtually entirely in ISK. Proceeds from currency hedging balanced against wage costs in the fourth quarter of 2017 by USD 3.0 million; the corresponding figure for the fourth quarter of 2016 was approximately USD 3.3 million.

Aviation expenses amounted in total to USD 110.0 million over the quarter, up 24%, by USD 21.4 million.

|   | USD thousand                                 | Q4 2017 | Q4 2016 | Change | % Change | % of exp. |
|---|--|---------|---------|--------|----------|-----------|
| ı | Aircraft fuel                                | 54,653  | 45,203  | 9,450  | 21%      | 50%       |
|   | Aircraft lease                               | 5,718   | 5,351   | 367    | 7%       | 5%        |
|   | Aircraft handling, landing and communication | 29,184  | 21,052  | 8,132  | 39%      | 27%       |
|   | Aircraft maintenance expenses                | 20,481  | 16,986  | 3,495  | 21%      | 19%       |
|   | Total  | 110,036 | 88,592  | 21,444 | 24%      | 100%      |

Fuel expenses amounted in total to USD 54.7 million, up by USD 9.5 million, or 21%, from the corresponding time of last year. The Company's reporting price for the quarter, taking hedging into account, was on average USD 562/ton, which corresponds to a 17% increase between years. The section headed "Outlook and EBITDA guidance for 2018" below provides an overview of the Company's fuel hedging position at the end of December. Aircraft lease amounted to USD 5.7 million, up from the fourth quarter of 2016. The reason is the B767-300 aircraft that was added to Icelandair's fleet. Aircraft servicing, handling and navigation expenses increased by USD 8.1 million between years, or 39%, partly as a result of price hikes and increased scope of business, but also as a result of expenses carried over between quarters. Maintenance expenses amounted to USD 20.5 billion, increasing by 21% year-on-year.

Other operating expenses amounted to USD 84.1 million, up by USD 16.8 million between years. The table below shows a breakdown of principal items and trends between years.

| USD thousand                               | Q4 2017 | Q4 2016 | Change | % Change |
|--|---------|---------|--------|----------|
| Operating cost of real estate and fixtures | 8,031   | 6,823   | 1,208  | 18%      |
| Communication                              | 6,310   | 6,456   | -146   | -2%      |
| Advertising                                | 9,355   | 7,837   | 1,518  | 19%      |
| Booking fees and commission expenses       | 14,915  | 12,359  | 2,556  | 21%      |
| Cost of goods sold                         | 8,094   | 8,173   | -79    | -1%      |
| Customer services                          | 12,292  | 7,381   | 4,911  | 67%      |
| Tourism expenses                           | 14,317  | 10,784  | 3,533  | 33%      |
| Other operating expenses                   | 10,779  | 7,439   | 3,340  | 45%      |
| Total                                      | 84,093  | 67,252  | 16,841 | 25%      |



#### **FINANCIALS**

## Net financial items negative over the quarter

| USD thousand      | Q4 2017 | Q4 2016 | Change | % Change |
|-------------------|---------|---------|--------|----------|
| Interest income   | 588     | 1,194   | -606   | -51%     |
| Interest expenses | -3,835  | -2,384  | -1,451 | 61%      |
| Currency effect   | 1,240   | 2,766   | -1,526 | -55%     |
| Total             | -2,007  | 1,576   | -3,583 | -        |

Financial expenses in the fourth quarter amounted to USD 3.8 million, as compared to USD 2.4 million in the corresponding quarter of last year. Exchange rate gains amounted to USD 1.2 million, as compared to USD 2.8 million at the same time in 2016.

#### **BUSINESS SEGMENTS**

In late 2017 the decision was made to make changes in the organisational structure of Icelandair Group. The changes will bring about a reduction in management layers, resulting in shorter lines of communication and a clearer focus than before on flight operations as the Company's core operation. The executive boards of Icelandair Group and Icelandair have been combined, and the Company is now under the management of a single chief executive officer and chief financial officer instead of two separate management teams. In all, the number of senior executives within the Company has been cut by five since the start of 2017.

Significant streamlining will be achieved with the integration of IGS and Icelandair Cargo with Icelandair, which is currently in progress, through structural simplification and a reduction in middle management. The changes will be fully implemented in the second quarter of 2018.

In connection with the structural changes the business segment overview has been modified accordingly. The business segment overview is now divided into three sections: International Flight Operations, equity investments in Flight Operations and equity investments in Tourist Services. The International Flight Operations includes Icelandair and Icelandair Cargo, which will now become an Icelandair subsidiary, IGS, which will be merged with Icelandair, and the shared services enterprise Fjárvakur. Equity investments in Flight Operations include the companies Loftleidir Icelandic, Air Iceland Connect and the Vita travel agency. Equity investments in Tourist Services includes Icelandair Hotels and Iceland Travel.

|              | Intern. flight operatins |           | Aviation in | Aviation investments |         | Tourism investments |  |
|--------------|--------------------------|-----------|-------------|----------------------|---------|---------------------|--|
| USD thousand | Q4 2017                  | Q4 2016   | Q4 2017     | Q4 2016              | Q4 2017 | Q4 2016             |  |
| Total income | 257,927                  | 235,695   | 45,484      | 35,769               | 39,345  | 35,602              |  |
| EBITDAR      | -15,233                  | 477       | 8,970       | 8,550                | 420     | 2,980               |  |
| EBITDA       | -17,884                  | -1,659    | 3,508       | 3,926                | -2,512  | 186                 |  |
| EBIT         | -43,168                  | -25,726   | 865         | -3,743               | -3,988  | 5,102               |  |
| EBT          | -42,680                  | -25,969   | -650        | 4,662                | -4,798  | -887                |  |
|              |                          |           |             |                      |         |                     |  |
| USD thousand | 2017                     | 2016      | 2017        | 2016                 | 2017    | 2016                |  |
| Total income | 1,242,285                | 1,141,044 | 170,762     | 155,583              | 218,685 | 175,341             |  |
| EBITDAR      | 147,047                  | 196,048   | 39,018      | 36,030               | 21,849  | 22,882              |  |
| EBITDA       | 137,633                  | 187,446   | 22,987      | 21,571               | 9,605   | 10,828              |  |
| EBIT         | 33,548                   | 98,568    | 12,387      | 6,955                | 3,859   | 12,915              |  |
| EBT          | 40,094                   | 102,502   | 5,401       | 13,195               | 3,296   | 4,414               |  |



### **International Flight Operations**

Revenue grew by approximately 9%; however, the gross margin declined as a result of cost increases which were not reflected in price increases owing to the downward pressure on average prices in the company's markets.

## **Equity investments in Flight Operations**

Turnover increased by 10% between years. The operation of Loftleidir Icelandic was extremely successful over the year, with a marked improvement in the company's performance from 2016. At year-end the company had 10 aircraft in operation, as compared to 8 aircraft at the beginning of the year. Vita's operations were also successful in 2017, with revenue increasing by approximately 11% and profit just short of doubling. On the other hand, the operation of Air Iceland Connect was extremely difficult in 2017. The company's turnover remained more or less the same, while results declined significantly.

## **Equity investments in Tourist Services**

The operation of Icelandair Hotels' accommodation business showed very good success over the year in metropolitan Reykjavik, but countryside hotels suffered, with declining occupancy and fewer group reservations. Late bookings were also short of the figures seen in recent years. Rising costs and less spending by foreign visitors had the effect that gross margin figures fell short of the Company's targets. Iceland Travel's operations showed growth over the year, but the gross margin declined.

### **BALANCE SHEET AND FINANCIAL POSITION**

- Total assets USD 1.4 billion at year-end 2017
- Equity ratio 42%
- Interest-bearing liabilities USD 289.5 million

| USD thousands                  | 31.12.2017 | 31.12.2016 | Change  |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|---------|
| Total assets                   | 1,415,090  | 1,292,493  | 122,597 |
| Operating assets               | 652,705    | 602,615    | 50,090  |
| Cash and short term investment | 225,278    | 250,125    | -24,847 |
| Total equity                   | 591,535    | 568,213    | 23,322  |
| Interest bearing debt          | 289,541    | 242,382    | 47,159  |
| Net interest bearing debt      | 64,263     | -7,743     | 72,006  |
| Equity ratio                   | 42%        | 44%        | -2 ppt  |
| Current ratio                  | 0.98       | 0.92       | 7%      |

Operating assets amounted to USD 652.7 million, up by USD 50.1 million from the beginning of the year. Investments in operating assets are further discussed in the section on cash flow and investments. At the end of the quarter the Group's fleet comprised 46 aircraft, 37 of which were owned by the Company. The table below shows an overview of the Company's fleet at the end of the year.



|                    |            |       |            | Air                |                   |                |              |                 |                    |
|--------------------|------------|-------|------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Туре               | Icelandair | Cargo | Loftleiðir | Iceland<br>Connect | Fleet<br>31.12.17 | Fleet 31.12.16 | Of which own | Of which leased | Ch. as of 31.12.16 |
| Boeing 757 200     | 23         | 2     | 4          |                    | 29                | 29             | 26           | 3               | 0                  |
| Boeing 757 300     | 1          |       |            |                    | 1                 | 1              | 1            |                 | 0                  |
| Boeing 767 300     | 4          |       | 2          |                    | 6                 | 6              | 4            | 2               | 0                  |
| Boeing 737 700     |            |       | 1          |                    | 1                 | 1              |              | 1               | 0                  |
| Boeing 737 800     |            |       | 3          |                    | 3                 | 2              |              | 3               | 1                  |
| Bombardier<br>Q200 |            |       |            | 3                  | 3                 | 2              | 3            |                 | 1                  |
| Bombardier<br>Q400 |            |       |            | 3                  | 3                 | 3              | 3            |                 | 0                  |
| Fokker F-50        |            |       |            |                    | 0                 | 4              |              |                 | -4                 |
| Total              | 28         | 2     | 10         | 6                  | 46                | 48             | 37           | 9               | -2                 |

Equity amounted to USD 591.5 million at year-end, and the equity ratio was 42%. The equity ratio at the end of 2016 was 44%.

| USD thousands                     | 31.12.2017 |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Balance at 1.1. 2017              | 568,213    |
| Purchase of treasury shares       | -15,230    |
| Total comprehensive profit        | 43,596     |
| Dividend (0.10 US cent per share) | -5,044     |
| Balance at 31.12. 2017            | 591,535    |

Interest-bearing debt amounted to USD 289.5 million, as compared to USD 242.4 million at the beginning of the year. The increase is mainly the result of a subsequent bond issue in the amount of USD 40.0 million in February. Net interest-bearing debt amounted to USD 64.3 million at the end of the quarter.

| USD thousands                    | 31.12.2017 | 31.12.2016 | Change  |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|---------|
| Loans and borrowings non-current | 280,254    | 196,722    | 83,532  |
| Loans and borrowings current     | 9,287      | 45,660     | -36,373 |
| Short term investment            | 4,087      | 23,236     | -19,149 |
| Cash and cash equivalents        | 221,191    | 226,889    | -5,698  |
| Net interest bearing debt        | 64,263     | -7,743     | 72,006  |

### **CASH FLOW**

- Net cash provided by operating activities USD 9.1 million
- Cash and cash equivalents at year-end 2017 amounted to USD 221.2 million

| USD thousand                             | Q4 2017 | Q4 2016 | Change   |
|--|---------|---------|----------|
| Net cash to/from operating activities    | 9,054   | -39,471 | 48,525   |
| Net cash used in investing activities    | -48,186 | -69,986 | 21,800   |
| Net cash from/used financing activities  | -151    | 147,727 | -147,878 |
| Cash and cash equivalents change         | -39,283 | 38,270  | -77,553  |
| Cash and cash equivalents, end of period | 221,191 | 226,889 | -5,698   |



Net cash provided by operating activities in the fourth quarter amounted to USD 9.1 million, as compared to net cash for use in operating activities amounting to USD 39.5 million in the fourth quarter of 2016. Cash decreased by USD 39.3 million over the quarter.

#### **INVESTMENTS**

Investments in operating assets amounted to USD 37.1 million in the fourth quarter. The principal factors were engine overhauls, together with investments in a flight simulator, an aircraft hangar at Keflavik Airport and the Company's hotel business. Investments in long-term cost and intangible assets amounted to a total of USD 4.4 million. Investments over the year as a whole amounted to a total of USD 166.1 million

| USD thousand                     | Q4 2017 | 12M 2017 |
|----------------------------------|---------|----------|
| Operating assets:                |         |          |
| Aircraft and aircraft components | 4,694   | 34,848   |
| Overhaul own aircraft            | 12,138  | 54,597   |
| Other                            | 20,301  | 66,849   |
| Total operating assets           | 37,133  | 156,294  |
| Long term cost                   |         |          |
| Overhaul leased aircraft         | 3,234   | 4,176    |
| Intangible assets                | 1,136   | 5,661    |
| Total Capex                      | 41,503  | 166,131  |

### **OUTLOOK AND EBITDA GUIDANCE FOR 2018**

- Icelandair's flight schedule projected to grow by 10% in 2018
- Fierce competition continues on Icelandair's principal markets

# **International Flight Operations**

The International Flight Operations has three distinct markets: the tourist market to Iceland, the domestic market from Iceland, and the international market between Europe and North America. Competition in all these markets has been increasing in recent months and years, and in the summer of 2018, 27 airlines will be flying to and from Iceland. Low-cost airlines have been gaining a foothold in flights across the North Atlantic and their share in seating capacity in 2017 is estimated at 9.5%, as compared to 0.5% in 2013. The result is that average fares have been falling over the past two years and the profitability of air carriers in these markets has declined. In 2018 it is estimated that airline expenses will continue to increase as a result of the rising world market price of fuel and general cost increases. Because of the intense competition there is uncertainty regarding the average price trends in the second half of the year, and as a result of the rising fuel prices it may be assumed that average air fares will trend upwards. Icelandair's booking situation for the first half of the year is favourable and in line with the increase in capacity between years. It is too early yet to make an assessment of the bookings for the second half of the year.

Icelandair's flight schedule in 2018, as measured in available seat kilometres, is set to expand by 10% over 2017 year's schedule. The number of passengers in 2018 is projected at 4.4 million, up by 350 thousand from previous year. Flights will be introduced to six new destinations: San Francisco, Kansas, Cleveland, Baltimore and Dallas in the United States and Dublin in Ireland. Flights to Birmingham in the



United Kingdom will be discontinued. The number of flights to a number of current destinations in North America and Europe will be increased. Icelandair will introduce three new 160-seat Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft during the year, bringing the number of aircraft in use to 33 next summer, 26 of the type Boeing 757 and four of the type Boeing 767-300, in addition to the new 737s.

The Company's Route Network has been based on two connection banks in Iceland. The main bank features departures from Keflavik International Airport to Europe in the morning and to North America in the afternoon. In recent years the Company has been developing a second connection bank with departures to the United States just before noon and at midnight to Europe. However, this connection bank has proven less profitable than the main connection bank, as average fares and the passenger load factor on nocturnal flights are lower and aircrew expenses are higher. Also, it is not possible to gain access to airports in London and Amsterdam because of their opening hours, which has limited the potential for expanding the bank. The decision was made in early 2018 to discontinue the second bank entirely and transfer the capacity to the more efficient and more profitable main bank. This will be done by increasing flight frequency outside the busiest time in the main connection banks, both before and after, with a view to maintaining an unchanged load in the middle of the bank. The flights that were shifted are in most cases one of two flights to the same destination, and flights will therefore continue to that destination at the peak hours. This change wills set the foundation for the Company's future plans, but in the present year it will increase the connection options in the Route Network and simplify the Company's product offerings.

### **Equity investments in Flight Operations**

Prospects in Loftleidir Icelandic's charter flight operations in 2018 are favourable. On the whole, it is assumed that the company will have two more aircraft on lease than in 2017 as a result of new long-term assignments. The operation of the Vita travel agency, which specialises in holiday trips for Icelanders abroad, was extremely successful in 2017, and it is assumed that the operations will also show good profit this year. Air Iceland has six aircraft in operation in 2018. The operation of the company was very challenging in 2017, however conditions are anticipated to improve in 2018.

# **Equity investments in Tourist Services**

The number of tourists visiting Iceland is expected to grow by about 10% in 2018. The prospects for Icelandair Hotels in 2018 are quite good. The booking prospects are good, and in general the hotels are better booked than at the same time last year. The same can be said of the operating prospects of Iceland Travel. Demand is similar to the demand in 2017, and the principal emphasis has now been placed on the increased efficiency and competitiveness of the company. Nevertheless, it must be borne in mind that rising costs in Iceland have had the effect that the gross margin on tourist-related services has been declining, notwithstanding the huge increase in the number of tourists visiting Iceland. In addition, foreign visitors have been opting for shorter stays in Iceland than before.

# Investments in operating assets

In 2018 the Company will take delivery of three new Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft. One of the aircraft will be sold to a leasing company and taken on lease for just short of 9 years. The assumption is that the other two aircraft will be financed through JOLCO financing, with negotiations in their final stages. Financing terms are far more favourable than anticipated at the time that the purchase agreements were made. In all cases the financing of the aircraft will be 100%. Other investments planned over the year include aircraft-related operating assets, two flight simulators and interior fittings for hotel projects.



#### **EBITDA** guidance

The price of jet fuel (net of hedging) is estimated at USD 625/ton on average in 2018. Taking hedging into account, a 10% increase in fuel prices may be expected to have a USD 12.1 million adverse impact on EBITDA. The fuel hedging position at the beginning of 2018 is highlighted in the table below.

| Period       | Estimated usage (tons) | Swap volume | % hedged | Av. swap price USD |
|--------------|------------------------|-------------|----------|--------------------|
| Jan 18       | 24,305                 | 14,250      | 59%      | 558                |
| Feb 18       | 21,412                 | 12,250      | 57%      | 556                |
| Mar 18       | 27,183                 | 15,250      | 56%      | 544                |
| Apr 18       | 29,040                 | 14,500      | 50%      | 544                |
| May 18       | 40,540                 | 20,500      | 51%      | 539                |
| Jun 18       | 48,615                 | 27,550      | 57%      | 523                |
| Jul 18       | 50,655                 | 26,650      | 53%      | 522                |
| Aug 18       | 50,271                 | 27,650      | 55%      | 543                |
| Sep 18       | 45,817                 | 24,550      | 54%      | 574                |
| Oct 18       | 34,679                 | 18,500      | 53%      | 559                |
| Nov 18       | 28,230                 | 15,450      | 55%      | 573                |
| Dec 18       | 27,123                 | 16,450      | 61%      | 586                |
| 12 months    | 427,870                | 233,550     | 55%      | 549                |
| Jan 19       | 25,445                 | 4,000       | 16%      | 548                |
| Feb 19       | 22,406                 | 4,000       | 18%      | 598                |
| Mar 19       | 28,459                 | 4,000       | 14%      | 595                |
| Apr 19       | 30,411                 | 4,000       | 13%      | 590                |
| May 19       | 42,502                 | -           | -        | -                  |
| Jun 19       | 50,978                 | -           | -        | -                  |
| 13-18 months | 200,200                | 16,000      | 8%       | 583                |

<sup>\*</sup> weighted average price

The criteria used in the Company's earnings estimate assume an average exchange rate index of 162 for the ISK and the exchange rate of the EUR against the USD is projected at an average of 1.20 over the year. In early 2017 the Company presented its target regarding measures on the revenue and expenditure side to improve performance by USD 30 million per year when in full effect at the start of 2018. It is safe to assume that two thirds of that amount have already been felt in the Company's operations in 2017, and that in 2018 the target will have been achieved and surpassed.

This is offset by the fact that the increase in available capacity in the Company's markets has been significant, which has resulted in continued downward pressure on average fares. An example is the increase in capacity on the UK market, which historically has been very important for Icelandair's performance. In 2018, nearly 90 flights will be available between Iceland and the United Kingdom in a typical July week. It is therefore clear that the Company's environment has changed radically, and the response has been to grow into new markets, modify product offerings and focus on unit costs.

Taking all of the above factors into account, the Company's earnings estimate projects EBITDA for 2018 at 170-190 million USD. It is important to bear in mind that external factors, such as fluctuations in fuel prices and the currency markets, together with average air fare trends, will significantly impact the Group's performance. The same can be said of the results of wage bargaining in the labour market, with pilots' contracts now open for renegotiation and negotiations in progress since last fall.



#### **DIVIDENDS PAYMENTS AND REPURCHASE OF OWN SHARES**

The Board of Directors of Icelandair Group has decided to repurchase the Company's own shares up to the amount of ISK 750 million. The Board of Directors proposes a payment of 750 million ISK (USD 7.2 million) in dividends to shareholders in 2018. This corresponds to ISK 0.15 per share.

#### PRESENTATION MEETING 12 FEBRUARY 2018

An open presentation for stakeholders will be held on Monday 12 February 2018 at the **Icelandair Hotel Reykjavik Natura**. Björgólfur Jóhannsson, President and CEO of Icelandair Group, and Bogi Nils Bogason, CFO, will present the Company's results and respond to questions, together with other senior management. The presentation will be held in Room 2, starting at 08:30. Breakfast will be offered from 08:00 a.m. The presentation material will be available after the meeting on the Icelandair Group website, www.icelandairgroup.is, and on the Nasdaq OMX Iceland hf. news system.

The meeting can be followed in real time on the website http://www.icelandairgroup.is/investors/reports-and-presentations/webcast-next/

#### APPROVAL OF ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The consolidated accounts of Icelandair Group for the fourth quarter and the annual statement for 2017 were approved at a meeting of the Board of Directors on 9 February 2018.

# **FINANCIAL CALENDAR**

- Annual General Meeting 08.03.2018
- Financial statement for the first quarter 30.04.2018
- Financial statement for the second quarter 31.07.2018
- Financial statement for the third quarter 30.10.2018
- Financial statement for the fourth quarter week 06, 2019
- Annual General Meeting Week 10, 2019

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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