

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Airservices supports Thai Airways 'green' demonstration flight**

Airservices has played an integral role optimising air traffic management to assist Thai Airways conduct a demonstration flight to reduce the impact of aviation on the environment.

As part of the Asia and South Pacific Initiative to Reduce Emissions (ASPIRE) program, Airservices, along with air navigation service providers Airways New Zealand and Aerothai, collaboratively used technological innovation and best practice air traffic management during the flight from Bangkok to Auckland.

Operated by a Boeing 777-200ER, flight TG491 left Bangkok at approximately 7.30pm (local) and was given unrestricted taxi and take-off and an uninterrupted climb to its initial cruise level.

Airservices' National Operations Centre in Canberra, and controllers from Upper Airspace Services and East Coast Services provided the flight with a company preferred route across Australian airspace.

On arrival to Auckland Airport, the flight was offered an unrestricted descent directly to final approach and the shortest taxi to the gate. The 777 touched down at Auckland shortly before midday after the 11.5 hour flight.

The 'green' air traffic management procedures and technology demonstrated in the ASPIRE partnership has seen participating airlines report a saving of 234kg of fuel per flight on average.

The demonstration flight marked the entry of Aerothai into the ASPIRE partnership. Aerothai now joins Airservices, Airways New Zealand, Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore, Federal Aviation Administration and Japan Civil Aviation Bureau in the joint venture designed to lessen the environmental impact of aviation across Asia and the South Pacific.

The ASPIRE agreement was signed in Singapore on 18 February 2008 by the chief executive officers of Airservices and Airways New Zealand, and the acting administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

Thai Airways will conduct a second ASPIRE demonstration flight from Auckland to Bangkok on Sunday 8 May. Flight TG492 is scheduled to leave Auckland around lunchtime.

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