

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Better connectivity is always welcome, yet national airline's strategic importance can never be put aside

The Malta Chamber welcomes the establishment of the new Malta-based airline Malta Air which was announced earlier this week.

The Malta Chamber has always argued in favour of improved connectivity to Malta which has proven over the years to contribute directly to the Tourism industry in general as well as a number of other satellite industries that depend on efficient and cost-effective connections.

However, the Malta Chamber reiterates its view that the national carrier Air Malta must remain a priority for Government and all needs to be done to safeguard its position in the market.

The Chamber has argued time and time again, how Air Malta is of strategic importance to the country's economy, not least the Tourism sector. Other sectors such as manufacturing amongst others are completely reliant on timely and reliable supply of components and raw materials for their competitive operation. Thus, the national airline plays a pivotal role in this equation, and cannot be in any way placed in any form of danger.

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