

PRESS RELEASE

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Russia Jet Direct Begins Flight Service to Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk via Anchorage, Ribbon Cutting Set for Today

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 26, 2005

(Anchorage)—Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport is pleased to announce that Russia Jet Direct (RJD) will now offer direct flight service from Houston via Anchorage to Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk beginning August 26, 2005. A ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled at the Anchorage Airport for Friday, August 26, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. at Gate B9.

While the flights are open to the public, a large portion of RJD's services will focus on transportation support for oil industry employees traveling to and from Sakhalin Island, one of the world's largest offshore petroleum exploration areas. The island is the largest of the Russian Federation and has recently become the second largest recipient of foreign investment in Russia after Moscow.

"Given Alaska's close connection with Russia and the critical role of the oil and gas industry in both of our economies, this new flight service is positive reinforcement for us as neighbors and partners in the global market," said Anchorage Airport director, Mort Plumb.

"Significant reductions in flight time between the United States and Russia is one among several benefits that Russia Jet Direct brings to Alaska," added Plumb. "Whereas travel to Russia used to span up to four days with as many connections, travelers can now count on 15-hours from Houston or as little as six from Anchorage. I am pleased this unique flight service is now available among Anchorage Airport's broad spectrum of travel options."

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Welcome and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

What: Russia Jet Direct Welcome and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
When: Friday, August 26, 2005 at 3:00 p.m.
Where: Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport, Gate B9
How: Members of the media are asked to queue in front of the TSA passenger security checkpoint by 2:00 p.m. and will be escorted to Gate B9 by Airport Operations.
Contact: Nona Gunn, Airport Communications Director, (907) 266-2107.