

## **bmi announces new codeshare with Continental Airlines**

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bmi announces a new codeshare with Continental Airlines as they become the 25<sup>th</sup> member of the Star Alliance. The new agreement will provide bmi customers with access to a wider range of destinations from in America in a single booking.

Continental is the world's fifth largest airline and the new codeshare with bmi is effective immediately for travel from 1 November 2009. The deal will allow bmi to offer fares from Newark Liberty International (New York) and George Bush Intercontinental (Houston) to London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham International, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Brussels and improve connections between the US and the bmi network.

Continental will be able to sell tickets for customers on bmi's services connecting through the same set of UK destinations as well as Belfast, and Amman, giving the airline's customers better access to the Jordanian capital, a burgeoning business and leisure travel destination. Additional codeshare destinations will be launched in phases through the end of the year.

Katherine Gershon, Sales and Marketing Director, bmi said the new agreement is part of the airline's strategy of increasing its Star Alliance partnerships. 'Our new codeshare agreement with Continental will mean our customers have the opportunity to travel on new services between our key departure points and the United States. Starting with Newark and Houston, we hope to extend our collaboration with Continental to other destinations in the Americas.'

Jim Compton, Continental's Executive Vice President Marketing, said: 'We are delighted to sign this agreement with bmi, our new Star Alliance partner, which enables us to offer our customers an even greater range of travel options.'