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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Liat20 Launches New Tri-Weekly Service Connecting Antigua
and the Eastern Caribbean to Montego Bay**
Service Marks Significant Milestone in Strengthening Caribbean Connectivity

MONTEGO BAY, JAMAICA - JULY 15, 2025: Days after Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders discussed improving the free flow of people across the region and the need for enhanced air transport connectivity at the recent 49th CARICOM Summit held in Montego Bay from July 6-8, 2025, LIAT20 launched its tri-weekly service from Antigua to Montego Bay, marking a historic moment in Caribbean aviation connectivity.

The new service was launched with an inaugural flight on Friday, July 11 at 11:30 AM from the Eastern Caribbean country to Jamaica's tourism capital. The E145 aircraft touched down with 22 passengers on board, including Antiguan Government officials, LIAT20 airline executives, media representatives, industry stakeholders and other distinguished guests.

Hon. Edmund Bartlett, Minister of Tourism, who led Jamaica's welcome party, emphasized the transformational impact of this new connectivity. "The basis for multi-destination tourism is beginning to take shape. Finally, we have an entrepôt in the region that can now be a hub to enable reconnections into all the islands of the Caribbean. We're creating the connectivity within a market for ourselves of nearly 50 million people."

Minister Bartlett also highlighted that Jamaica now hosts every major airline that traverses the Caribbean, with eight airlines providing direct connections to the entire Caribbean region. "What we are saying is that we're creating a one Caribbean, a one destination that enables us to future-proof tourism in our space and be more resilient in responding to different disruptions," he added.

The new service operates, via Kingston, on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays to Montego Bay with return flights on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays. It establishes vital air links between Jamaica's premier tourism destination and Antigua, while simultaneously providing much-needed domestic connectivity between Kingston and Montego Bay.

Kidus Melkamu, Chief Operating Officer of LIAT20, reiterated the airline's dedication to the region. "We are service providers committed to connecting Caribbean cities in a single day, creating convenience and choice for travellers while building stronger cultural and economic ties across our region."

He further outlined that LIAT20 is working to ensure that passengers can travel from Jamaica to any Caribbean destination in a single day, with plans to expand their fleet with narrow-body aircraft to enhance capacity and service.



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For Shane Munroe, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of MBJ Airports Limited, operators of the SIA, the return of Eastern Caribbean connectivity is a welcomed route. “We are thrilled to welcome the return of direct air service between Montego Bay and key Caribbean destinations. This connectivity has been absent for some time, and this new route not only re-establishes a vital link with Antigua but also opens the door to broader connectivity across the eastern and southern Caribbean,” he said.

In addition to boosting tourism and facilitating easier movement across the region, the new LIAT20 service provides significant benefits for multiple stakeholder groups. This includes improved connectivity for trade and investment between Jamaica and the Eastern Caribbean and ultimately, strengthened cultural and economic ties across Caribbean islands.

This was further underscored by Audley Deidrick, President and CEO of the Airports Authority of Jamaica, who said, “With today's arrival in Montego Bay, we celebrate the expansion of LIAT20's airlift into Jamaica. The introduction of service between Antigua and Montego Bay via Kingston re-establishes domestic connectivity and creates a new gateway for regional travel, strengthening our access to the Eastern Caribbean.

“For Jamaicans, this service means more flexibility and ease when travelling between Kingston and Montego Bay, while also strengthening our position as a key regional hub. The Airports Authority of Jamaica is proud to support the expansion of air services that benefit Jamaicans and the region. We remain committed to enhancing air connectivity and providing travellers with world-class facilities and services to meet their evolving needs,” he continued.

The new air service exemplifies the CARICOM Summit's central theme of "People, Partnerships, Prosperity: Towards a Secure and Sustainable Future" by providing the vital connectivity infrastructure needed to achieve the free movement of CARICOM nationals by October 2025.

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Link to Photos: [MBJ - LIAT20 Inaugural Flight 2025](#)

Captions:

LIAT20 - 1: Hon. Edmund Bartlett, Minister of Tourism (l), accepts a token from Kidus Melkamu, Chief Operating Officer of LIAT20, at a ceremony to welcome the airline's inaugural flight from Antigua to Montego Bay.

LIAT20 - 2: Shane Munroe (l), Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of MBJ Airports Limited - operators of the SIA, accepts a token from Kidus Melkamu, Chief Operating Officer of LIAT20 at a ceremony to welcome the airline's inaugural flight from Antigua to Montego Bay.

LIAT20 - 3: Members of the LIAT20 airline crew pause for a quick photo op following the ceremony to welcome the airline's inaugural flight from Antigua to Montego Bay.



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LIAT20: The Pride of the Caribbean, the LIAT20 E145 aircraft on the tarmac after its inaugural flight from Antigua to Montego Bay.

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About Sangster International Airport:

Sangster International Airport (IATA: MBJ, ICAO: MKJS) is an international Airport located 3 mi (4.8 km) east of Montego Bay, Jamaica. The Airport is capable of handling nine million passengers per year. It serves as the most popular Airport for tourists visiting the north coast of Jamaica. The Airport is named after former Jamaican Prime Minister Sir Donald Sangster.

About MBJ Airports:

MBJ Airports Limited, the operator of Sangster International Airport, connects Jamaica to more than 60 international destinations. A record 5.267m passengers used the Airport in 2023. MBJ operates SIA under a 30-year concession awarded in 2003 and the Airport provides employment to more than 7,500 persons. SIA has been named the Caribbean's Leading Airport by World Travel Awards for 17 years.



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