



OPODO APPOINTS SIMON VINCENT AS NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

London, 2nd November 2004. Opodo, the pan-European online travel service, today announced the appointment of Simon Vincent as Chief Executive Officer.

Simon has over 20 years experience in the travel and financial services industries, latterly working with private equity companies on management buy-in opportunities within the leisure industry.

From 2002 to 2003 he was CEO of Red Letter Days, the UK's No.1 Experiences Company.

Prior to Red Letter Days, Simon spent 15 years at Thomas Cook UK in a series of senior positions including Managing Director of Tour Operations (2001 to 2002), Chief Operating Officer (2000 to 2001), Managing Director of JMC Holidays (1998 to 2000), Commercial Director (1996 to 1998) and Managing Director Direct Distribution (1992 to 1996).

Previous experience includes Manager, CEO's office, HSBC International and Corporate Banking Manager for HSBC Canada.

Commenting on his appointment Simon said "I am delighted to be joining Opodo at such an exciting time in the company's development. Opodo is already a leader in the European online travel industry and with the strong dynamic team that has been built, along with the backing of our shareholders, I am confident that we will consolidate this leadership position."

Opodo Chairman and Amadeus President and CEO José Antonio Tazón commented, "Simon's wealth of travel knowledge and experience will be invaluable to Opodo as the company continues to grow and develop. He has an excellent track

record of working across a pan-European brand to deliver high levels of customer satisfaction and shareholder value.”

Simon took up the role of CEO on 1st November 2004. Bart Tompkins, who has been acting CEO of Opodo since July 2004 will resume his position at Amadeus as Director of E-Commerce Investment.

Ends

Notes to Editors

Biographical details - Simon Vincent

Simon has over 15 years experience in the leisure sector at senior director level, predominantly in multi channel distribution, tour operating and airline sectors of the travel industry.

Until recently, Simon has been working on management buy-in opportunities in the leisure sector, with a number of leading private equity houses.

From 2002 to 2003, Simon was Chief Executive Officer of Red Letter Days, the UK's No.1 Experiences Company.

From 1988 to 2002, Simon enjoyed several senior positions within the Thomas Cook Travel organisation:

- 2001 to 2002, Managing Director, Tour Operations where he was accountable for a number of pan-European synergy activities, following the sale of Thomas Cook Travel to C&N, as well as five UK Charter tour operating brands, including Thomas Cook Holidays, JMC, Club 18-30 and Neilson.
- 2000 to 2001, Chief Operating Officer UK Travel, responsible for all tour operating and distribution activities of Thomas Cook in the UK, incorporating all charter and scheduled tour operating brands, 692 retail shops, four call centres and seven new retail concept warehouses
- 1998 to 2000, Managing Director of JMC Holidays, responsible for the acquisition of the charter tour operating brands of Sunworld, Flying Colours and Inspirations and the subsequent merger and integration activity, culminating in the launch of JMC Holidays.
- 1996 to 1998, Commercial Director, responsible for all commercial negotiations with third party tour operators, airlines, car hire, cruise and ferry companies. Also responsible for the retail networks and franchise operations in Canada and Australia/New Zealand
- 1992 to 1996 Managing Director, Direct Distribution, responsible for the start-up and growth of all call centre activities including the launch of two state of the art, award winning 500+ seat call centres in Peterborough and Falkirk.
- 1988 to 1992, Senior Manager, Thomas Cook Group working on various strategic initiatives, including 12 months in Tokyo, working on a prospective Japanese joint venture with the Saison Group.

Previous experience includes Manager, CEO office for HSBC International (1987 to 1988) and Corporate Banking Manager for HSBC Canada, based in Toronto, (1986 to 1987) following a fast track early career in international banking.

Simon (41) has a degree in Banking and International Finance from The City University, London

About Opodo

Opodo addresses the real needs of today's traveller by offering an unbiased and competitively priced online travel service for world travel, with access to flights from over 400 airlines, 35,000 hotel properties, charter flights, package holidays, city breaks, and a worldwide fleet of hire cars, as well as comprehensive travel insurance and airport parking.

Opodo launched its first site (www.opodo.de) in Germany in November 2001, its UK site (www.opodo.co.uk) in January and its French site (www.opodo.fr) in April 2002.

Opodo is owned by leading travel technology company Amadeus and by nine of Europe's leading airlines - Aer Lingus, Air France, Alitalia, Austrian Airlines, British Airways, Finnair, Iberia, KLM and Lufthansa.

Media Contacts

Gail Sinden
Opodo press office
T: + 44 (0) 870 099 5087
F: + 44 (0) 870 099 5086
E: gail.sinden@opodo.com

Markets to add own agency contact details