



## **OPODO APPOINTS JOHN RYAN AS DIRECTOR OF HOTEL PRODUCT**

**London, October 2nd, 2003.** Leading online travel service Opodo today announced that John Ryan has been appointed Director of Hotel Product, with responsibility for further developing the company's hotel and accommodation product.

John has over 17 years experience in senior sales and marketing roles within the international hospitality sector including a variety of positions within Radisson Edwardian Hotels; Regional Director, Marketing & Sales, UK and Nordic Countries for Concorde Hotel Group, and Senior Vice President, Marketing and Sales Europe for Forte Hotel Group. Most recently he was Senior Vice President, Worldwide Sales for Le Meridien Hotels where he directed the company's global sales and regional marketing strategy.

Commenting on John's appointment, Carl Michel, Director of Product Strategy for Opodo said, "John has an excellent background in sales and marketing for some of the top global hotel brands and we are delighted to welcome him to Opodo. The online hotel market in Europe is still fragmented but is set to grow dramatically and the opportunity for the online agencies to provide customers with great value deals and hotel suppliers with the opportunity to distribute their products to a Europe-wide audience, has never been greater."

Commenting on his appointment John said, "When Opodo first launched it focussed on providing its' customers with excellent value flights from over 400 airlines. It still offers customers these great flight deals, but over the last 18 months has evolved to encompass hotels and car hire and more recently has introduced charter flights, city breaks, specialist holidays and services such as airport parking. Going forward, Opodo is ideally placed to offer the consumer unparalleled choice and flexibility as we develop our hotel and accommodation portfolio to meet the needs of all our customers."

Ends

## **Notes to editors**

### **About Opodo**

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

Opodo is owned by nine of Europe's leading airlines - Aer Lingus, Air France, Alitalia, Austrian Airlines, British Airways, Finnair, Iberia, KLM and Lufthansa and by leading Global Distribution System (GDS) and travel industry technology provider, Amadeus.

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, 34,000 hotel properties, charter flights, city breaks, package holidays and a worldwide fleet of hire cars, as well as travel insurance and airport parking.

Further information about Opodo is available at [www.opodo.com](http://www.opodo.com)

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