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## PRESS RELEASE

### ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES SWITCHES ITS CRS SYSTEM FROM GABRIEL TO SABRE SONIC SYSTEM

**November 3, 2006-** Ethiopian Airlines is proud to announce, that effective immediately, that their Computer Reservations System(CRS) will be hosted by SABRE Airline Solutions. Aggressive growth goals and reducing costs were key factors in the decision to work with SABRE, the world's largest provider of travel software products, passenger solutions and consulting services for **airlines**. But the primary reason the switch has been done was in order to facilitate the travel and airline booking process **for our partners, the travel agents**. From travel agents to suppliers, leisure travelers to corporations, in an ever changing global marketplace, Ethiopian Airlines believes that a diverse mix of travel merchandising and distribution can connect people with the world's greatest travel possibilities in Ethiopia and Africa. In **their** efforts to modernize and mainstream their CRS, Ethiopian Airlines is switching to the SABRE, on Friday, November 3, 2006. The transfer to SABRE is expected to be smooth and will provide travel agents with access to more current real-time information than ever before.

The switch to SABRE is just one more reason that Ethiopian Airlines is indeed Africa's World Class Airline. It all adds up to an airline that understands the marketplace and is constantly seeking the best way to communicate in real time, offers, sales, inventory and more to our travel agent partners. Additional benefits include access to real-time FFP information for members of their Sheba Miles program and speedier check-ins at the airports.. Another benefit for travel agents is that the airline **has now** worldwide distribution, and that e-ticketing will be available for the US early next year. The airline is also proud that they will be the first African carrier to fly the new Boeing B-787 Dreamliners on the continent in 2008.

Ethiopian Airlines expects that switching over to Sabre will help the airlines reduce costs, simplify operations, maximize revenue and improve customer service. Mekonnen Abebe, North American Director for Ethiopian Airlines is very excited by switch to Sabre. "We know that Sabre provides an aggressive range of airline and travel industry solutions for over 200 airlines around the world. We are confident that **by** utilizing SABRE in our business that we will exceed our world class customer service goals, and make it easier than ever for travel agents to book more of their clients on Ethiopian Airlines. Our research has shown that more travel agents trust SABRE, and that played an important component of our decision to join with SABRE."



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**Ethiopian Airlines still pays Travel Agents 6% Commissions!**

In addition, Ethiopian Airlines is one of the remaining airlines that truly values travel agents, and recognizes their hard work by paying 6% commission on all international flights. And, by switching to SABRE, the airline management knows that it has simplified the process and hopes it has made it as easy as possible for travel agents to book Ethiopian Airlines.

**About Ethiopian Airlines**

Ethiopian Airlines is one of the largest airlines in Africa and features four weekly flights from Washington, D.C.'s Dulles International Airport. The airline offers both morning and evening departures, with the morning departure allowing seamless connections to **28** African destinations. The airline's website, [www.ethiopianairlines.com](http://www.ethiopianairlines.com) provides excellent information on additional flights, services and special web fares. Ethiopian Airlines provides seamless connections to 45 destinations around the globe. Major destinations served include: Abidjan, Accra, Addis Ababa, Amsterdam, Bamako, Bangkok, Beijing, Beirut, Brazzaville, Brussels, Bujumbura, Cairo, Dakar, Dar Es-Salaam, Delhi, Djibouti, Douala, Dubai, Entebbe, Frankfurt, Guangzhou, Harare, Hargiesa, Hong Kong, Juba, Jeddah, Johannesburg, Khartoum, Kigali, Kilimanjaro, Kinshasa, Lagos, Libreville, Lilongwe, Lome, London, Luanda, Lusaka, Mumbai, Nairobi, N'djamena, Paris, Rome, Stockholm, Tel-Aviv, and Washington, D.C. Learn more about Ethiopian Airlines at [www.ethiopianairlines.com](http://www.ethiopianairlines.com)

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