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HRG ALERTS AIR TRAVELLERS TO INCREASING HIDDEN COSTS

In the wake of a series of announcements made by airlines this week, Hogg Robinson Group (HRG), the international corporate services company, is urging business travellers to carefully monitor the total cost of their travel bookings.

Peter Kite, HRG Europe West Managing Director, commented: "In the current volatile market we are increasingly seeing airlines pass additional costs on to the customer. Just this week both Qantas and BA have announced that ticket costs will rise to accommodate a higher fuel surcharge; and Ryanair has increased its baggage charges for the second time in six months.

"With fuel prices reaching a record high this week, soaring from US\$80 per barrel to US\$120, airlines will inevitably continue to introduce measures to recoup these costs to ensure survival.

"It is vital that business travellers are aware of the hidden costs being added to their travel bookings, be it fuel surcharges or baggage charges. In an environment of such constant change, corporations will find it difficult to keep track so, the role of the corporate travel management company will become ever more important to help their clients carefully analyse and manage their travel needs and to keep tighter controls on their travel expenditure."

For additional comment as these issues develop please contact:

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Notes to Editors:

Hogg Robinson Group (HRG) is the award-winning international corporate services company. Founded in 1845, HRG has over 60 years specific corporate travel expertise. Its corporate services interests include wholly-owned or majority controlled corporate travel operations in 25 of the key driver and growth markets throughout Asia Pacific, Europe and North America. Supported by contracted partners, the HRG worldwide network extends to over 100 countries.

Totally committed to a value offering for clients, HRG offers a comprehensive range of corporate services which includes Corporate Travel Management, Consulting, Expense Management, Events & Meetings Management, and Sports.