

The future of long-haul low-cost

Dr. Christoph Brützel

### Long-haul low-cost

- Market Opportunities and Threats -

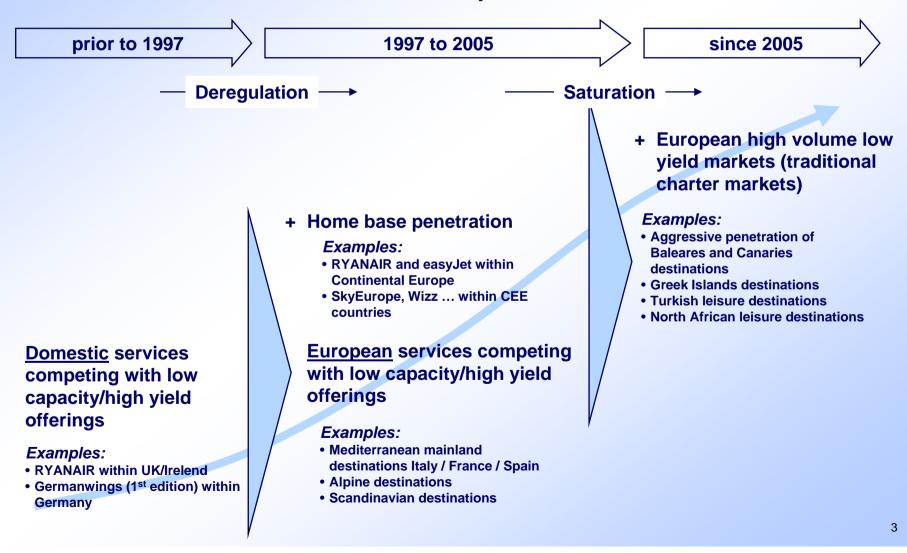
The Hague, Crowne Plaza Hotel September 18, 2007

### Content

### 1. LCC market success factors in short haul markets

- Origin/destination focus
- Product focus
- Yield Management / Pricing
- Ancillary revenues
- 2. Opportunities from applying traditional market success factors of LCCs to long-haul markets
  - Origin/destination focus (including feeder issues)
  - Product focus
  - Yield Management / Pricing
  - Distribution
  - Ancillary revenues

Lacking capacities and competition have been key enablers for LCCs to enter into short haul markets.

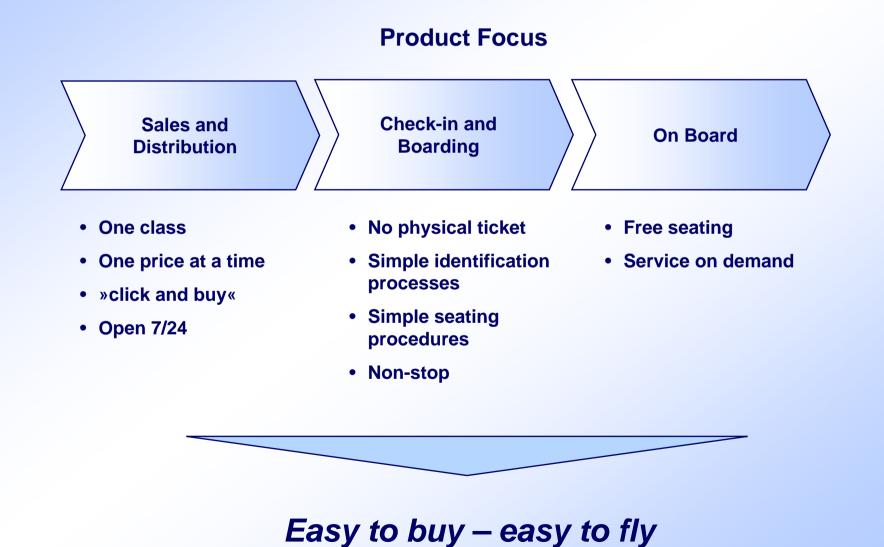


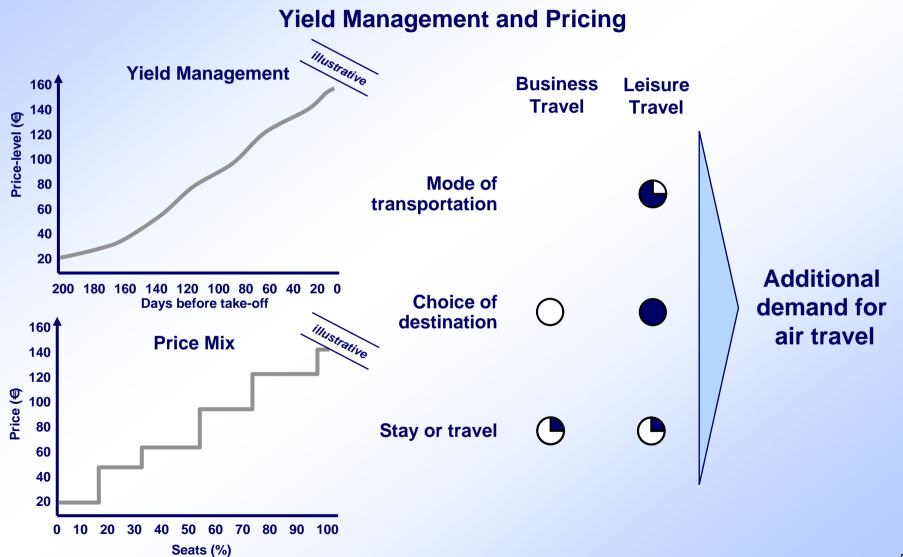
### Focus of market penetration

/lirnet

De Hague, Sept. 18th, 2007

## Simple ("no frills") product features not only reduce cost but also ease processes for customers





LCCs consequently search for ancillary contributions to allow for low ticket prices.

### **Ancillary revenue**

- Subsidies for local infrastructures
- Success fees from incoming tourism boards and airport non aviation concessionaires
- Sales commissions from car rentals, hotels, ... for cross-selling via LCC web page
- Separate charges for in flight services and other additional services (i.e. seat reservation, baggage, ...)

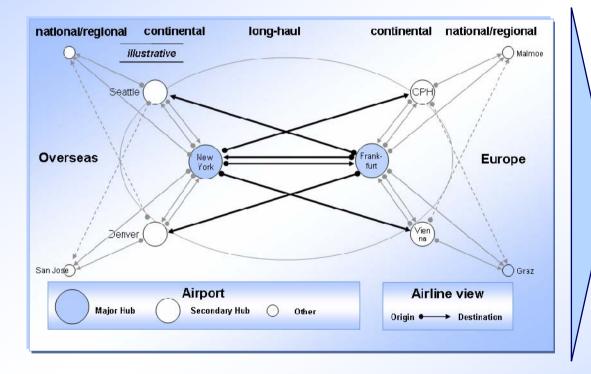
Ancillary revenue driven by transaction rather then by flight distance

### Would all this bring any innovation to the long haul markets?

# Not really!

## **Beyond hub-to-hub and hub-to-spoke routes only few O&Ds offer potential for non-stops.**

### Network economics of long haul markets

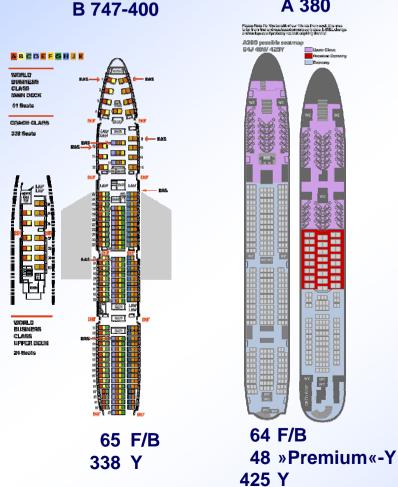


- 1. Long haul operations depends on feeder at the one or the other or even at both ends.
- 2. Network carriers don't charge but even »pay« passengers for accepting being feedered.

**Standard seat configuration** 

De Hague, Sept. 18th, 2007

### **Network carriers' long haul aircraft offer Y-class seating capacities** in excess.



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Suites	12	12	+-0	-
Business	50	60	+10	+20 %
Economy	399	313	+86	+27 %

- Network carriers operate huge Y-class seating capacities in order to materialize large aircrafts' unit cost advantage.
- A 380 will add even more surplus capacities.

## To fill capacities Economy-class tickets are dumped into markets at rates hardly covering DOC.

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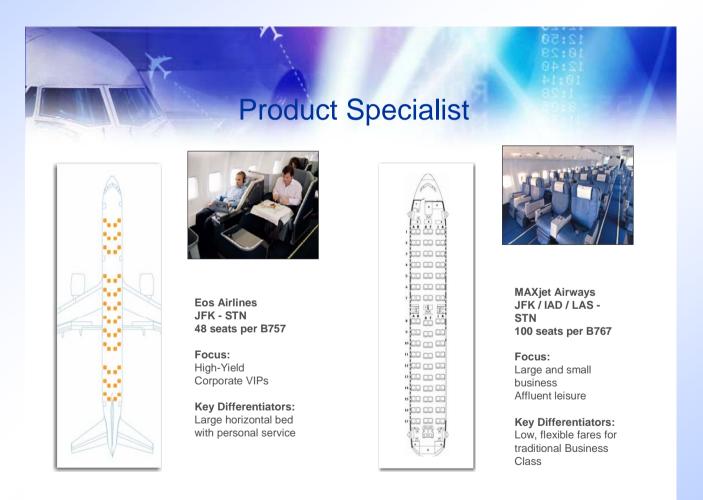
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Source: http://www.OPODO.de, 15.09.2007

Source: http://www.OPODO.co.uk, 15.09.2007

## Applying the »Product Specialist« approach to premium class services might offer a niche.



Source: John Wensveen: OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE LONG-HAUL LOW-COST MODEL

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## However, even Business-class yields are not up in seventh heaven any more.

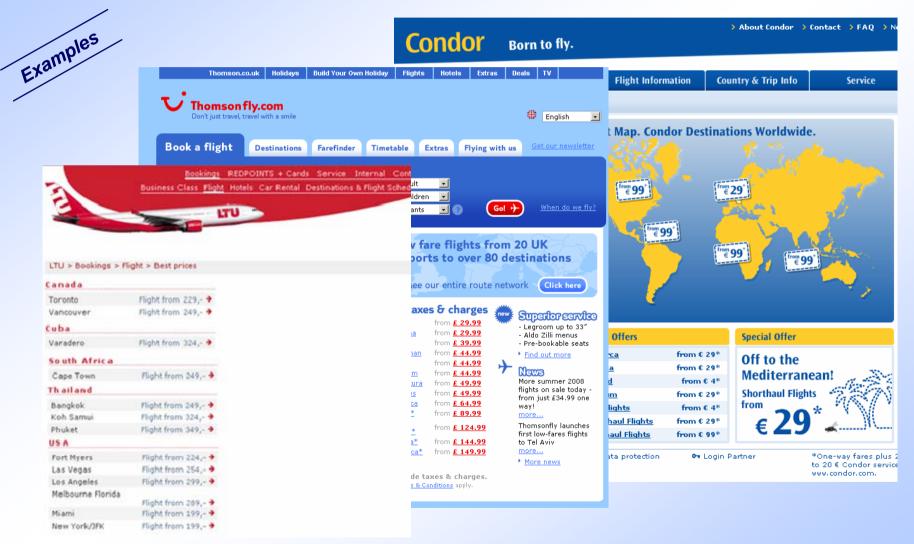
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## Where »Product Specialists« enter into markets, incumbents have lowered fares to defend their stake.

### Business class fares London – New York 23.11.2007 – 28.11.2007 as of 15.09.2007

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## Last but not least, incumbent leisure carriers apply LCC pricing strategies for long haul services.



### Long-haul low-cost – what makes the difference?

/lirneth De Hague, Sept. 18th, 2007

In conclusion, economics of long haul markets, timing and reactions of incumbents leave little opportunity for long haul LCCs.

#### **Key enablers** of LCCs Reasoning **Drivers** Rating Hub&spoke **Origin/destination** Market Oversized economy compartments due to focus economics addiction to »optimize« unit cost Leisure travel O&Ds served by leisure carriers at LCC cost standards Market Higher share of hardly manageable DOC (i.e. fuel, Product focus economics & air traffic control) timing Web based distribution has been adopted by incumbent players Yield management Strategies applied by incumbent players Timing / pricing Market Ancillary revenues Lower impact because of higher share of DOC economics

### **Summary of opportunities**