

Travelport and Middle East Airlines Honour Lebanon's Travel Industry Leaders

9 December 2015

Leading travel commerce platform and the national flag-carrier of Lebanon recognise leaders of Lebanon's travel industry at awards gala



More than 120 of Lebanon's travel industry leaders gathered at an industry awards ceremony hosted by Travelport (NYSE:TVPT), a leading Travel Commerce Platform providing distribution, technology, payment and other solutions for the \$8 trillion global travel and tourism industry and Middle East Airlines, the national flag-carrier of Lebanon.

The winners were announced at the Four Seasons hotel in Beirut last night, with travel agents with additional 'beyond air' capabilities on top of traditional air bookings- beyond air includes agencies with capabilities to book hotels for travellers for example- emerging strongly as the event's winners. The Middle East's travel market is worth an estimated \$72 billion US dollars and is poised for more growth. Online travel bookings, which represent 25% of all bookings in the Middle East, are forecast to grow in 2015 and 2016 to reach 36% by the end of 2017 when online revenue is expected to reach \$35 billion. Offline sales are forecast to continue to grow from \$54 billion in 2014 to \$63 billion in 2017. ¹ The awards are the first of their kind in Lebanon, where a leading travel commerce platform and national airline carrier join forces to honour industry players who have delivered the best in travel throughout the year. On conclusion of the awards ceremony, Lebanese singer Pascale Machalani entertained the winners and guests.

Middle East Airlines' Chairman- Director General, Mr. Mohamad A. El-Hout stated: "MEA prides itself in offering the latest technology and solutions to its travel agents and passengers and through our partnership with Travelport, we can present our products to our customers more efficiently. A special acknowledgment goes to the travel agents for their contribution in boosting the tourism sector as well as the Lebanese economy."

Travelport President and Managing Director of Africa, Middle East and Asia, Rabih Saab commented: "We are very proud to host these awards in conjunction Middle East Airlines to honour our travel agency partners in Lebanon. Travelport is company with innovation at its core and as such we are honoured to recognise our travel agency partners who are at cutting edge of their industry, leveraging the most innovative products and solutions to meet the unmet needs of the travel industry."

1. Phocuswright's Middle East Online Travel Overview, Second Edition

About Travelport

Travelport is the technology company which makes the experience of buying and managing travel continually better. It operates a travel commerce platform providing distribution, technology, payment and other solutions for the global travel and tourism industry. The company facilitates travel commerce by connecting the world's leading travel providers with online and offline travel buyers in a proprietary business-to-business (B2B) travel platform.

Travelport has a leading position in airline merchandising, hotel content and distribution, car rental, mobile commerce and B2B payment solutions. The company also provides IT services to airlines, such as shopping, ticketing, departure control and other solutions. With net revenue of over \$2.5 billion in 2018, Travelport is headquartered in Langley, U.K., has over 3,700 employees and is represented in approximately 180 countries and territories.

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