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**Media Release**

## **Air New Zealand Announces new Regional Manager Asia role**

Air New Zealand has appointed a senior airline executive into a new role responsible for all of its Asia operations as it seeks to tap into growth in the region.

Sandeep Bahl is Air New Zealand's new Regional General Manager Asia from 1 March 2012, having previously been Director Mainland China and Hong Kong for Delta Airlines.

"Sandeep's appointment is a critical step in the strengthening of our Pacific Rim network and accessing the emerging growth in Asia," says Group General Manager International Airline Christopher Luxon.

"Based in our Shanghai office, Sandeep will focus on rapidly growing our China business, while also leading Air New Zealand's activities throughout Asia including Japan, Korea and South East Asia."

Sandeep brings significant Asia Pacific market and airline industry experience to the new role having held key leadership roles in operations, inflight services, sales and marketing for a number of major carriers in India, Australia, Japan, Hong Kong and Mainland China.

Since 2003 Sandeep has been responsible for growing Delta Airlines into one of the most significant foreign carriers in Mainland China and Hong Kong with 47 weekly flights.

Greg Edmonds, Acting General Manager North Asia, has recently accepted a new role as Chief Operations Officer at Auckland Transport.

**Ends**

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