**15 December 2016**

**easyJet doubles number of new entrant female pilots following surge in applications from since launching its Amy Johnson flying initiative**

* easyJet achieves target to double the number of its female new entrant pilots
* In celebration airline names aircraft after Amy Johnson and sets new, ambitious target of 20% by 2020

In October 2015 easyJet, Europe’s leading airline, launched its Amy Johnson Flying Initiative with the aim of increasing the number of female new entrant pilots.

Worldwide only 5% of commercial airline pilots are female and only 450 of them have achieved the rank of captain – which means every female commercial airline captain could fit onto an A380 aircraft. In 2015, at easyJet women made up just 6% of easyJet’s new pilot intake and 5% overall, so the airline set a target of doubling the number of female pilots in two years.

At the halfway point through the 2016 recruitment campaign, easyJet achieved the target of doubling the intake to 12%. These women are now assigned to courses due to start in the coming weeks.

Applications from budding female pilots increased by more than 20% and the campaign has also resulted in more than 600 females applying for the Amy Johnson easyJet Future Flyers Initiative.

In commemoration of this milestone, easyJet chief executive Carolyn McCall today unveiled an aircraft named after renowned female aviator Amy Johnson. The aircraft will fly across the entire easyJet network to generate awareness of the initative.

**Speaking at the aircraft naming ceremony easyJet chief executive Carolyn McCall commented:**

“I am delighted to be unveiling this specially named aircraft after one of the most accomplished female aviators in our history.

“It is hard to think of another profession where women are so under-represented, the proportion has not changed for decades. We would like to understand why this is and do what we can to redress the balance at easyJet and introduce more women to this hugely rewarding career.

“There has been significant cross-sector progress with women entering and holding senior positions in the likes of law, the military and finance. We want to be leading the charge in aviation.

“We have been encouraged by the success of our Amy Johnson initiative since we launched it in October 2015 and the results so far suggest a promising future as the number of female pilots at easyJet continues to rise.

“In light of us achieving our target I am pleased to say we have set a new target of 20% female new entrant pilots by 2020. This is a long term strategy, which we hope will eventually lead to easyJet recruiting, retaining and developing many more female pilots.”

**Brian Tyrrell, head of flight operations at easyJet commented:**

“At easyJet we value diversity and we believe that having a workforce which better reflects our customers will help support our future success.

“A career as a pilot is interesting and rewarding and we want more women to bring their skills to the role.We have an excellent training department here at easyJet and the opportunity to progress careers to become Captains is much faster than with many other operators.

“I would encourage anyone thinking about starting a career as a pilot to apply. It is an excellent opportunity to work for Europe's leading airline, flying our very modern fleet of aircraft with the latest technology onboard and an excellent safety record."

**Speaking about the role of a pilot easyJet Captain Marnie Munns said;**

“I am proud of the work easyJet is doing to promote this hugely rewarding career to girls and young women. Myself and many of my colleagues are highlighting the opportunities of pilot careers to female audiences such as school groups and other youth organisations, building on the work easyJet already does in mentoring young women.

We are also working in partnership with organisations which promote female take-up of STEM subjects. We also continue to work with easyJet’s pilot training providers to attract more women to apply for the easyJet cadet programme‎ and will continue to offer ten places for women through the Amy Johnson initiative.”

easyJet also committed to providing additional support to develop and retain female pilots, so that more of them can go on to achieve captaincy and pilot management roles.

At easyJet, we have worked hard to create an environment where women have the opportunity to build careers throughout the organisation. We believe in developing the talent of all our people and preparing for succession.

We try to actively encourage and support women as they progress through easyJet.  We try to make it easier for people to have flexible working including part-time working, working from home and job sharing.

Currently around 35% of positions in easyJet's middle and senior management positions are held by women, 55% of easyJet's management board are women and 22% of easyJet's plc Board is female.‎

**Ends**

**For further information, please contact the easyJet Press Office on 01582 525252, log onto** [**www.easyjet.com**](http://www.easyjet.com) **or follow @easyJet\_Press**

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**Amy Johnson**

Amy Johnson, CBE (1 July 1903 – 5 January 1941) was a pioneering English aviator and was the first female pilot to fly alone from Britain to Australia. Flying solo or with her husband, Jim Mollison, she set numerous long-distance records during the 1930s. She flew in the Second World War as a part of the Air Transport Auxiliary.

Johnson achieved worldwide recognition when, in 1930, she became the first woman pilot, or in the language of the time, "aviatrix", to fly solo from England to Australia. Flying G-AAAH, the first of two aircraft she named "Jason", she left Croydon, south of London, on 5 May and landed in Darwin, Northern Territory, on 24 May after flying 11,000 miles (18,000 km). This aircraft can be seen in the Science Museum in London. She received the Harmon Trophy as well as a CBE in recognition of this achievement, and was also honoured with the No. 1 civil pilot's licence under Australia's 1921 Air Navigation Regulations.

**easyJet Amy Johnson Initiative.**

The initiative was launched with a primary aim of encouraging more women to become pilots, with a loan underwriting for 6 cadets each year. The scheme will also research why more women do not chose it as a career, whilst also reaching out to schools and grassroots activity to educate children and young adults of a pilot’s career