

Press Release

Air Arabia net profit soars to AED 134 million in first half of 2013, up 17 per cent

- *H1 turnover reaches AED 1.5 billion, up 19 per cent*
- *H1 passenger traffic exceeds 3 million passengers, up 16 per cent*

Sharjah, UAE: August 5, 2013: Air Arabia (PJSC), the Middle East and North Africa's first and largest low-cost carrier (LCC), announced today its financial results for the period ending June 30, 2013, highlighting the fundamental strength of Air Arabia's business model and demonstrating sustainable profitability during the first half of this year.

The company's net profit for the first half 2013 stood at AED 134 million, an increase of 17 per cent compared to AED 115 million for the first six months of last year. During the first half of 2013, the company registered a turnover of AED 1.5 billion, up 19 per cent from AED 1.2 billion for the first half of 2012.

Air Arabia's net profit for the second quarter of this year exceeded analysts' forecast and registered AED 76 million, an increase of 15 per cent compared to AED 66 million for the second quarter of 2012. Turnover for the second quarter of 2013 rose by 17 per cent to AED 797 million, compared to AED 681 million for the second quarter of last year.

The airline served over 3 million passengers during the first half of 2013; a 16 per cent increase compared 2.6 million passengers during the same period last year. Air Arabia's average seat load factor – or passengers carried as a percentage of available seats – for the first six month of 2013 stood at an extremely impressive 82 per cent.

“Air Arabia is pleased to announce strong and solid financial performance despite on-going political turmoil in parts of the region, which continues to impact the transport sector and the regional economic growth,” said Sheikh Abdullah Bin Mohammed Al Thani, Chairman of Air Arabia. “The airline’s commercial and operational strength have allowed it to further invest in its own growth, carry more people and register sustained and strong performance”.

Al Thani concluded: “We will continue to focus on our business expansion strategy which will enable us to launch new services and enter new geographies in the coming six month, while continuously offering our customers the best value for money deals”.

In the first half of 2013, Air Arabia added five new routes from Sharjah, bringing the total route network to serve 86 destinations from three operating hubs - UAE, Morocco and Egypt. These new destinations include: Sialkot in Pakistan; Baghdad in Iraq; Abha and Ha'il in Saudi Arabia; and Yerevan in Armenia. The first half of 2013 also saw the airline increasing frequency of flights to Beirut in Lebanon, Salalah in Oman, and Dhaka in Bangladesh.

Underpinned by strong demand for Air Arabia’s services, the airline has taken delivery of three aircraft from Airbus this year, including the region’s first Airbus Sharklet equipped A320 aircraft, bringing its total operational fleet to 33 aircraft. The low-cost pioneer expects to receive another four aircraft from Airbus by the end of 2013.

As further testament to its successful business model, Air Arabia has been awarded “*Best Low-Cost Airline, Middle East*” at the Skytrax World Airline Awards 2013 at the recent Paris Air Show. The award recognizes the airline’s commitment to providing the best quality, low cost travel for airline passengers in the region.

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About Air Arabia:

Air Arabia (PJSC), listed on the Dubai Financial Market, is the Middle East and North Africa's leading low-cost carrier (LCC). Air Arabia commenced operations in October 2003 and currently operates a total fleet of 33 new Airbus A320 aircraft, serving 86 routes from three hubs in UAE, Morocco and Egypt.

Air Arabia is an award-winning airline that focuses on offering comfort, reliability and value-for-money air travel. For further information, please visit: www.airarabia.com.