

Press Release

Air Arabia posts strong third quarter net profit of AED 297 million, up 26%

- *Third quarter revenue reaches AED 1.12 billion*
- *2.27 million passengers flew with Air Arabia in third quarter ending September 30, 2016, up 14 per cent*

Sharjah, UAE; November 13, 2016: Air Arabia, the first and largest low-cost carrier (LCC) in the Middle East and North Africa, today announced its financial results for the third quarter ending September 30, 2016, as the success of the company's expansion strategy continued to be reflected in strong performance figures.

Air Arabia's net profit for the third quarter of 2016 was AED 297 million, up 26 per cent compared to AED 235 million reported in the corresponding period of 2015. For the three months ending September 30, 2016, the airline posted a turnover of AED 1.12 billion, in line with the revenue generated in the same period of 2015. Air Arabia served over 2.27 million passengers in the third quarter of 2016, a 14 per cent increase compared to 2 million passengers in the same period of last year. The average seat load factor – or passengers carried as a percentage of available seats – for the same quarter stood at an impressive 81 per cent.

Sheikh Abdullah Bin Mohammed Al Thani, Chairman of Air Arabia said: "The strong third quarter and year to date performance is a reflection of Air Arabia's commercial and operational strengths supported by the company's commitment to deliver high value air travel to its customers and return on investments to its shareholders".

He added: "Despite challenging trading conditions driven by excess capacity in the market, political instability in some markets and the effect of lower oil price in the regional economies, we remain confident about the long-term prospects for the low cost industry in region and our ability to continue with our growth plans while delivering our value-for-money promise to our customer's everyday".

Air Arabia's net profit for the first nine months of 2016 stood at AED 542 million, up 15 per cent compared to AED 472 million reported in the corresponding period of 2015. For the nine months ending September 30, 2016, the airline posted a turnover of AED 2.96 billion, an increase of 3 per cent compared to AED 2.86 billion in the same period of 2015. The low-cost aviation pioneer served over 6.3 million passengers in the first nine month of 2016, a 14 per cent year-on-year increase. The average seat load factor – or passengers carried as a percentage of available seats – for the same period stood at an impressive 80 per cent.

Air Arabia completed 13 years last month, maintaining its continuous record of profitability since its first year of operations. The carrier added five new routes to its global network during the first nine months of 2016 from its operating hubs in the UAE, Morocco and Jordan.

Air Arabia also added to its impressive list of international accolades in the third quarter of 2016 when it was ranked third among the top 50 airlines in the world following a report compiled by Airfinance Journal surveying 137 carriers across the globe. The carrier was also named “Low Cost Airline of the Year” at the Aviation Business Awards and took home the ‘Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative of the Year’ award in recognition for its ‘Charity Cloud’ program. Air Arabia's Group Chief Executive Officer Adel Al Ali has also won ‘Airline CEO of the Year’ award at the 10th CEO Middle East Awards that took place in September 2016.

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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 46 new Airbus A320 aircraft, serving some 120 routes from five hubs in the UAE, Morocco, Egypt and Jordan.

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.

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