

24 October 2017

Air Partner flies Sale Sharks to Lyon for their European Rugby Challenge Cup match

Last week Air Partner, the global aviation services group, flew professional rugby club the Sale Sharks and some of their key corporate sponsors to Lyon ahead of the club's match against Pool 2 Challenge Cup opponents Lyon Olympique Universitaire.

The flight set off from Manchester early on Thursday 19th October in order to allow a day for the players to recuperate and acclimatise ahead of Friday's match. A dedicated flight manager from Air Partner's Commercial Jets team was on hand to ensure the journey ran smoothly, overseeing the charter from start to finish.

Friday's encounter at Matmut Stadium de Gerland was the first meeting between the sides in Europe. Despite a heroic effort from Sale Sharks which saw them take a 24-10 lead, the experienced Lyon side, who are currently leading the French Top 14 League, fought back to eventually claim a 27-24 victory.

Air Partner announced its new partnership with the Sale Sharks back in March: as well as supporting the club's travel requirements through its Commercial and Private Jets divisions, Air Partner is also one of the club's official sponsors.

Air Partner has worked with the sports industry for over 50 years and has an in-depth understanding of the travel needs of elite sportspeople, their teams and fans. This summer alone, Air Partner's European offices have operated 79 sport-related flights, flying over 5000 passengers more than 90,000 miles to 21 different countries.

Sale Sharks Commercial Director Mark Cueto said: *"We'd like to thank Air Partner for the outstanding service they provided this weekend in getting both our squad and corporate supporters out to Lyon. They ensured the journey was completely stress free for the team and coaching staff so they could focus completely on the game, whilst also ensuring our corporate guests had an unforgettable and unique experience."*

Clive Chalmers, Trading Director at Air Partner, commented: *"We were delighted to fly Sale Sharks to France for their latest fixture, ensuring that they arrived in Lyon with sufficient rest time before the match. We know how important it is to get every small detail right for our sports clients, which is why we take care of everything, from a seamless check-in experience through to the bespoke onboard service."*

ENDS

Media enquiries:

Temple Bar Advisory

Alycia MacAskill

Lucy Featherstone

T. 020 7002 1080

M. 07876 222 703

M. 07789 374 663

About Air Partner:

Founded in 1961, Air Partner is a global aviation services group that provides worldwide solutions to industry, commerce, governments and private individuals. The Group has two divisions: Broking division, comprising air charter broking and remarketing; and the Consulting & Training division, comprising the aviation safety consultancies, Baines Simmons, Clockwork Research and SafeSkys, as well as Air Partner's Emergency Planning Division. For reporting purposes, the Group is structured into four divisions: Commercial Jets, Private Jets, Freight (Broking) and Consulting & Training (Baines Simmons, Clockwork Research, SafeSkys and Air Partner's Emergency Planning Division). The Commercial Jet division charters large airliners to move groups of any size. Air Partner Remarketing, which is within the Commercial Jet division, provides comprehensive remarketing programmes for all types of commercial and corporate aircraft to a wide range of international clients. Private Jets offers the Company's unique pre-paid JetCard scheme and on-demand charter. Freight charters aircraft of every size to fly almost any cargo anywhere, at any time. Baines Simmons is a world leader in aviation safety consulting specialising in aviation regulation, compliance and safety management. Clockwork

Research is a leading fatigue risk management consultancy. SafeSkys is a leading Environmental and Air Traffic Control services provider to UK and International airports. Air Partner is headquartered alongside Gatwick airport in the UK. Air Partner operates 24/7 year-round and has 20 offices globally. Air Partner is listed on the London Stock Exchange (AIR) and is ISO 9001:2008 compliant for commercial airline and private jet solutions worldwide. www.airpartner.com