



**Paris-Vatry Airport:
New Chinese all cargo operator selects Paris-Vatry Airport
as gateway for trade with Europe**

Yangtze River Express, a China-based cargo carrier, has selected Paris-Vatry Airport as the company's gateway for trade between Europe and Western Asia.

From 3 April 2012, the company will link Sichuan Province (China) with the Champagne-Ardenne region (France) thrice weekly on Tuesday, Friday and Sunday. The Boeing B747-400 freighter which will operate on the route between Chengdu and Paris-Vatry is expected to transport between 20 000 and 25 000 tonnes of cargo per year destined for the European market.

In selecting Paris-Vatry Airport, Yangtze River Express acknowledges the airport's many attributes. Open for business 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and featuring leading edge technical and navigational equipment, Paris-Vatry is well poised to provide for future expansion and development by the Chinese carrier.

The arrival of the first Yangtze River Express aircraft on 3 April will mark the successful outcome of 18 months of negotiations with officials from Sichuan Province eager to establish direct ties with Western Europe. Paris-Vatry Airport, in France's Champagne-Ardenne region, is ideally situated for the development of airborne trade between Europe and Asia.

Negotiations, initiated by Jean-Paul Bachy, President of the Regional Council of Champagne-Ardenne, who travelled to Chengdu in September 2010 with Gilles Darriau, General Manager of Paris-Vatry Airport, were finalised in October 2011 in the presence of René-Paul Savary, President of the General Council of Marne.

Chengdu, Western China's largest city, is centrally located and home to 200 of the world's 500 leading business corporations. Chengdu's Shuangliu International Airport is the hub for and nerve centre of China's western provinces in terms of both passenger and cargo activities, and ripe with cargo development potential. Champagne-Ardenne region ranks as one of the most dynamic regions for automotive parts, agrifood products and, of course, champagne production.

The launch of the Chengdu/Paris-Vatry route will result in an influx of a substantial volume of cargo from Sichuan and neighbouring provinces in China. Cargo from the region—to include the likes of high tech items, perishable goods and more—will no longer have to transit via Shanghai or Beijing, thereby trimming transport time by two or three days and reducing transport costs considerably.



The launch of this new route will also help bolster bilateral commercial cooperation in new energy fields, while facilitating the export of foodstuffs, industrially processed agricultural products, automotive spare parts and components, and manufactured goods between China, France and other European nations.

It is thus on 3 April that the first Yangtze River Express aircraft will touch down on the tarmac at Paris-Vatry. This event, the fruit of concerted efforts by local development authorities in Champagne-Ardenne, will take place in the presence of executives from Yangtze River Express and parent company HNA Group, who will be accompanied by executives from Hong Kong Airlines and My Cargo, two other member companies of HNA Group. Visiting dignitaries will be welcomed upon arrival at Paris-Vatry by representatives of the surrounding communities, government departments and local stakeholders involved in promoting the airport.

Yangtze River Express, a subsidiary HNA Group, is a cargo airline which operates a fleet of 14 aircraft (10 Boeing 737s and 4 Boeing 747s). Yangtze River Express serves 40 destinations in China, including Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan. Internationally, Yangtze River Express flies from China to Boston, Chicago, Frankfurt, Los Angeles, Luxembourg, New York and Paris, and partners with UPS, FedEx and other major players in the cargo sector. Yangtze River Express is also active in cargo consulting, ground handling and transport, logistics and import/export activities. Business volume currently stands at ¥3 billion (≈€360 million).

*Located 150 km east of the Greater Paris area, **Paris-Vatry Airport** is the primary component of an intermodal facility open for business 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The airport's leading edge cargo installations and ready availability of onsite staff make it possible to accommodate regularly scheduled and on-demand cargo operations throughout the year. The airport is owned by the Department of Marne and managed, under a public service delegation, by airport authority SEVE.*