



VIRGIN GALACTIC EXPANDS ITS EXCLUSIVE SALES RELATIONSHIP WITH VIRTUOSO® BY ADDING 18 NEW 'ACCREDITED SPACE AGENTS'

NEW YORK, NY (November 20, 2009) – Today Virgin Galactic announces 18 new Virtuoso® travel advisors as 'Accredited Space Agents' (ASAs). These hand-selected advisors join an impressive group of 56 previous 'ASAs' – all members of leading luxury travel network, Virtuoso – who pioneered the ASA Program when Virgin Galactic first appointed Virtuoso as its exclusive retail sales channel throughout The Americas in 2006. The new 'ASAs' will join an elite group of just 120 travel consultants around the globe that Virgin Galactic have selected to take consumer deposits for their spaceflights. Please find 'ASA' names and locations at the end of this release.

Before being entrusted to represent the Virgin Galactic brand as well as one of the most exciting products in the travel industry, advisors first engaged in a rigorous application process. Now through the vetting process, they will undergo intensive training with Virgin Galactic in Los Angeles on December 4, 2009, ensuring they have the expert knowledge to guide prospective space customers. Upon successful completion of their training, these 18 new 'ASAs' will join approximately 100 other 'ASAs' from around the world at Virgin Galactic's second annual Global ASA Forum.

Next up on the ASAs' busy agenda is a special invitation to a Virgin Galactic groundbreaking event. On December 7, 2009, Virgin Galactic will reveal SpaceShipTwo, the first space vehicle of its kind developed to take private passengers to space. The newly appointed 'Accredited Space Agents' will be amongst just 100 travel consultants from around the world to attend this historic event in Mojave, CA, which will be hosted by Virgin Founder and Chairman Sir Richard Branson, along with renowned aircraft designer Burt Rutan of Scaled Composites.

In August 2006, Virgin Galactic selected Virtuoso as their exclusive retail travel network in The Americas and the Virtuoso 'Accredited Space Agent' team now comprises 74 travel advisors in 12 countries throughout The Americas and Australia.

Carolyn Wincer, Head of Astronaut Sales for Virgin Galactic, said, "We have developed a fantastic relationship with Virtuoso since we first selected them as our exclusive retail network in 2006, and we are delighted with how their member travel advisors have performed. The SpaceShipTwo unveiling in December followed by its comprehensive test flight program brings us even closer to the first commercial passenger flight so the time is right to increase the number of 'Accredited Space Agents' within the Virtuoso network."

"We are proud of the 18 individuals who have been selected as Virgin Galactic's newest 'Accredited Space Agents.' The fact that the ASA Program continues to expand shows the growing interest and excitement for space travel," said Virtuoso CEO, Matthew D. Upchurch. Continued Upchurch, "With a product as unique and innovative as space travel, Virgin Galactic could have easily decided to maintain an inside sales force. The fact that Virgin Galactic selected Virtuoso members to become their exclusive sales representatives in the Americas indicates their trust in the Virtuoso network, and our travel advisors. This relationship not only benefits our advisors, it elevates the entire travel agent profession to a new level. The introduction of SpaceShipTwo only reinforces that Virtuoso and its 'ASAs' are part of something historical. Suborbital space travel is one step closer to becoming a reality, and now we have even more qualified experts to help people realize this dream."

To date, the world has seen fewer than 500 astronauts, but with the launch of Virgin Galactic spaceflights that will soon change. Together with Virgin Galactic, the 'Accredited Space Agents' are poised to turn the dream of going to space into a reality for their clients. The once-in-a-lifetime experience includes Astronaut training, 'G force' acclimatization and a sensational spaceflight lasting over two hours. At US\$200,000 per ticket, Virgin Galactic's flights are a mere fraction of the \$20 million price tag associated with other commercial space tourism. And while Virgin Galactic's technology makes space travel more attainable for the general public, it takes a talented and skilled travel consultant to sell a trip to space.

About Virgin Galactic

Virgin Galactic was launched by Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Group in 2004 with the objective of developing commercial space vehicles which would transform the safety, cost and environmental impact associated with access to space. As well as offering 1000's of ordinary people the chance to experience space for themselves, the system will be used for space and high altitude science research and potentially developed to launch small satellites. In the future the company expects to move on to the development of orbital vehicles capable of carrying people, including the possibility of offering very fast trans –continental flights around the planet.

Virgin Galactic's vehicles use the design and technology developed by the renowned aeronautical engineer, Burt Rutan, for SpaceShipOne, which as the world's first privately built manned spaceship, flew safely to space and back three times in 2004.

This remarkable and unique project is now in its final stages with the test flight programme of the commercial vehicles underway. Already, approximately 300 people from around the world have paid approaching \$40m in deposits, representing \$60m of ticket sales, to guarantee an early seat.

Virgin Galactic's guiding star is safety. In addition to a system that is proven and safer by design, the vehicles are being put through a comprehensive and exhaustive test flight programme before the inaugural commercial flight takes place on which Sir Richard Branson and his family will fly.

Virgin Galactic astronauts will be prepared and trained for an experience of sensory overload, from the incredible acceleration at launch through to the "out of seat" zero gravity experienced in the blackness of space whilst looking through large windows at the breathtaking views of the Blue Planet below.

All of Virgin Galactic's first astronauts will be pioneers in a new industry which in the future will allow us to make better use of space to improve life here on Earth.

About Virtuoso

Virtuoso® is the industry's leading luxury travel network. This by-invitation-only organization comprises over 300 agencies with more than 6,000 elite travel specialists in 22 countries in North and South America, the Caribbean, Australia and New Zealand, as well as over 1,000 of the world's best travel providers and premier destinations. The network's member agencies generate over \$5.1 billion annually in travel sales, making the group the most powerful in the luxury travel segment. Their relationships with the finest travel companies provide the network's affluent clientele with exclusive amenities, rare experiences and privileged access. Virtuoso is the exclusive network of travel services and benefits provided by MasterCard® for participating World Elite MasterCard® programs. For more information, please visit www.virtuoso.com.

###

For further information, please contact:

Misty Ewing

Virtuoso – Director, Public Relations

Phone: 212-588-8242 or 206-484-8022 (mobile)

E-mail: mewing@virtuoso.com

The Newly Appointed Virtuoso Accredited Space Agents

USA

California

Tony Cardoza, Cardoza Travel Service, Palo Alto
Marc Casto, Casto Travel, San Francisco
Francis Contreras, Coronado Travel, Coronado
Carmella Sears, Mansour Travel, Beverly Hills

Colorado

Ezana Araya, Andavo Travel, Greenwood Village

Florida

Beverly Rother, Forest Travel, Miami

Georgia

Gene Lashley, Century Travel, Atlanta

Idaho

Kevin Loveless, Global Travel, Boise

New Hampshire

Kathy Burns Lamphier, Posh Travel, Greenland

New York

Lindsey Dwyer, BTI The Travel Consultants, Syracuse

Texas

Robin Sanders, Sanders Travel Centre, Forth Worth

Utah

Michelle Melroy-Alnawafleh, Melroy World Travel Agency,
Salt Lake City

Virginia

Karen Kilyk, Covington International Travel, Glen Allen

Washington

Gary Johnson, Woodside Travel, Seattle

CANADA

British Columbia

David Lowy, Renshaw Travel, Vancouver
Andrew Mortimer Lamb, Renshaw Travel, Vancouver
Claus Christensen, Vision 2000, Vancouver

CARIBBEAN

Puerto Rico

Carmen Teresa Targa, Condado Travel, San Juan

The Existing Virtuoso Accredited Space Agents

USA

California

Craig Buck, Montecito Village Travel, Santa Barbara
Jay Johnson, Coastline Travel Advisors, Garden Grove
Jim Sheehy, ProTravel International, Palm Desert
Lynda Turley-Garrett, Alpine Travel of Saratoga
Pat O'Neil, Cassis Travel Service, Los Angeles
Steve Kuriga, Travel Dynamics Group, La Jolla
Tom Jackson, World Travel Bureau, Santa Ana

Colorado

Vicki Upchurch, Brownell Travel, Aspen

Connecticut

Paul Largay, Largay Travel, Waterbury

Florida

Jean Cartier-Sauleau, Sixth Star Travel, Fort Lauderdale
Mary Ann Ramsey, Betty MacLean Travel, Inc., Naples
Peter Friedman, Unique Travel, Palm Beach
Ryan Hilton, Admiral Travel Gallery, Sarasota
Suzanne Perritt, Valerie Wilson Travel, Jacksonville

Georgia

Janie Bullard, Distinctive Journeys, Atlanta, GA
Jennifer Campbell, Explorations, Atlanta, GA

Illinois

Julia Douglas, Jetset World Travel, Chicago
Tim Krenzien, Paul L. Klein Travel Service, Inc, Chicago

Maine

Pamela Hurley-Moser, Hurley Travel Experts, Portland

Missouri

Barbara King, Great Getaways, Kansas City
Monika Dysart, Sixth Star Travel, Ballwin, MO

New Mexico

Alfred Volden, All World Travel, Inc, Albuquerque

New York

Andreas Revesz, ProTravel International, New York City
Jack Ezon, Ovation Travel, New York City
Moshe Gabby, Valerie Wilson Travel, New York City
Judy Perl, Judy Perl Cruises, New York City

North Carolina

Tony Maupin, Maupin Travel, Inc., Raleigh

Pennsylvania

Joshua Bush, Park Avenue Travel, Inc., Philadelphia

Tennessee

West Oehmig, Tennessee Valley Travel, Chattanooga

Texas

Andrew Rocchio, Strong Travel Services, Dallas
Diane Vest, Travel Dreams of Navigant, Houston
Pedro Rubio, ProTravel International, Houston
Rudi Steele, Rudi Steele Travel, Dallas
Tara Hyland, Navigant Vacations, Houston

Virginia

Anne Morgan Scully, McCabe World Travel, Maclean

Washington

Angie Lepley, Tangerine Travel, Seattle

AUSTRALIA

Western Australia

Bicton Travel, Perth

New South Wales

Spencer Travel

Queensland

MTA Travel

World Travel Professionals

CANADA

Alberta

Michael Broadhurst, Vision 2000, Calgary

Ontario

Stephanie Anevich, Vision 2000, Toronto

Roger Kershaw, Travel Trust International, Toronto

CARIBBEAN, CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Sergio Durante, Biblos, Buenos Aires

Brazil

Tomas Perez, Teresa Perez Tours, Sao Paulo

Roge David, Grande Sao Paulo Turismo, Sao Paulo

Chile

Felipe Castro Toovey, Cocha S.A., Santiago

Colombia

Ana Mercedes Soto, Aviatur, Bogota

Costa Rica

Rudy Jimenez, Terranova Travel, San Jose

Dominican Republic

Laura Asilis, Travelwise, Santo Domingo

Mexico

Enrique R Felgueres Jr, Felgueres Travel, Mexico City

Maria Elena Trevino, Turismo Internacional Apolo, Merida

Miguel Duran, Viajes Capistrano, Guadalajara

Carlos Perez Maldonado, Perez Maldonado Agencia de Viajes, Monterrey

Sergio Lozano, Lozano Travel de Mexico, Mexico City

Peru

Rosario Florez, Viajes Rosario Florez, Lima