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Swissair's half-year figures look good

IN its half-yearly message to shareholders, Swissair presents encouraging results for the first half of 1983.

Compared with the disappointing figures posted last year at this time, those for 1983 show a significant overall improvement.

In the first six months of the year – corresponding figures for 1982 in brackets – scheduled transport capacity increased by 5.7 per cent to 1,353.1 million ton-kilometres (1,280.7 million).

Traffic gains were recorded in all areas with the exception of Europe.

While the majority of IATA carriers failed to generate traffic growth during the first half of 1983, Swissair's traffic volume reached 845 million ton-kilometres (782.3 million), a rise of eight per cent. This is signifi-

cantly greater than the increase in capacity.

The overall load factor in scheduled services was therefore up from 61.1 per cent to 62.5 per cent and the seat load factor from 61.2 per cent to 62.1 per cent.

The preliminary operating accounts show that total revenues climbed by Sfr. 123 million to Sfr. 1,736 million.

Total costs before depreciations increased by only Sfr. 50 million from Sfr. 1,575 million in the first six months of 1982 to Sfr. 1,625 million during the review period.

The relatively lower rate of expenditure growth compared with revenue is attributable in part to the corrective measures introduced a year ago, whose effect is now being fully felt.

Additional contributory factors were favourable fuel price trends, the improved fuel efficiency of Swissair's fleet and the fact that the increase in personnel costs was held in check.

Consequently, gross profit before depreciations for the first half is considerably better than last year at this time, totalling Sfr. 111 million. This is Sfr. 73 million higher than the disappointing

mid-1982 figure of Sfr. 38 million.

Reflecting the entry into service of new aircraft, ordinary depreciation charges increased from Sfr. 108 million last year to Sfr. 121 million in the first half of 1983.

In this period Swissair took delivery of two Boeing 747-357s with extended upper deck, and the first three Airbus A310s. Both new types were introduced smoothly into revenue service.

The board further took the decision to convert four of the remaining orders for A310-220s

to the medium haul, extended range A310-320 version. Scheduled operations were inaugurated at the beginning of April to Toulouse, the 99th destination on Swissair's route network.

Swissair is confident about the second half of the year. Results are not expected to be quite as good as those registered in the second half of 1982, during which an upturn in traffic was experienced, but provided no unforeseen developments occur the overall result for 1983 should be satisfactory.

Interferex sets next year's date

NEXT year, Interferex, the international trade fair for hardware, fittings, tools, do-it-yourself supplies, gardening, leisure and household goods will be held for the 13th time in Basle.

Exhibits under the heading "elegant tableware", including glassware, porcelain, cutlery, gifts, table and kitchen utensils, will be shown under the new name "Intertable".

In order to avoid overlapping the dates of other international

fairs of related branches of trade, the dates of Interferex '84 will be August 26-28, 1984.

A comprehensive range of goods from the Swiss market has been on display at Interferex every other year since 1961.

The Interferex trade fairs are attended by almost all the Swiss hardware and houseware retailers and wholesalers, including department stores and home centres as well as by many buyers from abroad.

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