

SCOOTING ALONG

Nok Air and Singapore's Scoot strengthen their partnership by feeding passengers into each other's network. **B8**

AVIATION

Part of Singapore Airlines, Scoot now operates a daily flight between Bangkok and Singapore using a B777-200 wide-body jet.

Scoot, Nok Air sign pact

BOONSONG KOSITCHOTETHANA

Nok Air and Scoot have strengthened their partnership with an agreement allowing the Thai and Singaporean budget carriers to feed passengers into their respective networks.

Establishment of the interline agreement coincides with Scoot yesterday confirming relocation of its Bangkok base to Don Mueang airport from Suvarnabhumi airport starting on Sept 1.

The agreement provides passengers connectivity for flights operated separately by the two carriers by using a single ticket. It covers fares where both carriers agree to publish a fare from the origin to the final destination and then internally divide the revenue between them.

Scoot can offer seats on Nok Air flights between Don Mueang and 21 cities in Thailand, while Nok Air passengers can fly on Scoot's international network including Singapore, Sydney and Perth. Part of Singapore Airlines, Scoot only operates a

daily flight between Bangkok and Singapore using a B777-200 jet.

The agreement will see a basic one-way fare from Singapore to Chiang Rai via Don Mueang start from 3,000 baht excluding taxes, fees and surcharges. It follows a joint venture to establish NokScoot to operate medium- and long-haul no-frills flights out of Bangkok to challenge Thai AirAsia X.

NokScoot, 49% owned by Scoot Pte and 51% by SET-listed Nok Airlines and four of its senior executives, is expected to take to the skies in the next couple of months with service to Japan's Narita airport.

Scoot chief executive Campbell Wilson described his airline's migration to Don Mueang as a natural step as its partnership with Nok Air strengthens.

Don Mueang is the home of Nok Air, the second-largest airline operating out of the century-old airport, and the two airlines will pool their resources and operations.

NOK shares closed yesterday on the SET at 17 baht, down 20 satang, in trade worth 53 million baht.