



**Flight Centre Limited**

# **2009 Half Year Presentation**

**March 4, 2009**

# 2009 Half year results



RESULTS IN BRIEF	HALF YEAR ACTUAL		
	DEC 2008	DEC 2007	% Variance
TTV – Established businesses	\$4,800	\$4,800	-
<b>TTV – Actual</b>	<b>\$5,800</b>	<b>\$4,800</b>	<b>20.8%</b>
Gross Profit – Established businesses	\$648.1	\$642.9	0.8%
<b>Gross Profit^ – Actual</b>	<b>\$768.4</b>	<b>\$642.9</b>	<b>19.5%</b>
EBITDA – Established business	\$89.5		(14.9)%
EBITDA – Trading result (established businesses & Liberty)	\$82.0	<b>\$105.2</b>	(22.1)%
<b>EBITDA – Actual (trading result &amp; abnormals)</b>	<b>\$54.2</b>		<b>(48.5)%</b>
PBT – Established business	\$77.7		(14.5)%
PBT – Trading result (established businesses & Liberty)	\$62.0	<b>\$90.9</b>	(31.8)%
<b>PBT – Actual (trading result &amp; abnormals)</b>	<b>\$34.2</b>		<b>(62.4)%</b>
PAT – Established business	\$52.7		(13.9)%
PAT – Trading result (established businesses & Liberty)	\$55.8	<b>\$61.2</b>	(8.8)%
<b>PAT – Actual (trading result &amp; abnormals)</b>	<b>\$26.1</b>		<b>(57.4)%</b>
<b>Dividends</b>			
Interim Dividend (Paid Mar 09)	9.0c	37.5 c	

^Revenue of \$875m per Appendix 4D due to statutory gross up of \$120m for UK commissions revenue traditionally reported on a net basis as shown above

# Recent growth performance



**DEC 2008**

**DEC 2007**

**DEC 2006**  
(^ex abnormal)

**DEC 2005**

	<b>DEC 2008</b>	<b>DEC 2007</b>	<b>DEC 2006</b> (^ex abnormal)	<b>DEC 2005</b>
<b>TTV</b>	\$5,800 m	\$4,800 m	\$4,100 m	\$3,700 m
<b>Income Margin</b>	13.3%	13.4%	12.6%	12.9%
<b>PBT</b>	\$34.2m	\$90.9 m	\$53.0 m	\$49.8 m
<b>NPAT</b>	<b>\$26.1 m</b>	<b>\$61.2 m</b>	<b>\$35.4 m</b>	<b>\$33.6 m</b>
<b>EBITDA</b>	\$54.2 m	\$105.2 m	\$63.0 m	\$63.0 m
<b>EPS</b>	<b>26.2 c</b>	<b>64.0 c</b>	<b>37.5 c</b>	<b>35.6 c</b>
<b>DPS</b>	9.0c	37.5 c	20.0 c	20.0 c
<b>ROE</b>	4.2%	21.8%	22.9 %	17.5%
<b>Capex (excl acquisitions &amp; bldgs)</b>	42,225	39,258	14,607	18,990
<b>Building</b>	12,400	10,590	-	-
<b>Selling Staff</b>	<b>10,324</b>	<b>8,333</b>	<b>7,649</b>	<b>5,824</b>

^ Abnormal item relates to the sale of FLT's Brisbane CBD global headquarters. FLT recognised a \$22.4 million gain on sale before tax

# Overview: Established business



- **\$77.7m pretax profit – down 14.5% on record \$90.9m result in superior trading conditions during PCP, but 46% up on 2006/07**
- **Excluding USA, all major regions profitable for the half**
- **Good corporate travel results coinciding with significant sales force expansion**
- **Overall sales slowed Nov-Jan after reasonable first quarter, but customer enquiry healthy**
- **Strategies in place to:**
  - ✓ **Improve conversion in the short-term**
  - ✓ **Increase market share as competitors close stores, reduce sales force and roll back advertising; and**
  - ✓ **Capitalise on pent-up demand as the leisure travel cycle improves, as has happened in the past**
- **Ongoing focus on cost control – 1H wage bill flat, despite 9% increase in staff numbers**

# Overview: USA leisure



- **Losses of \$15.7m, including \$6.7m in non recurring expenses**
- **GOGO profitable and a key element in global wholesale expansion strategy**
- **Annualised \$USD30m in costs eliminated – reduced staff and admin, 40 underperforming shops closed (Liberty and former FC shops)**
- **New customer enquiry records set in Jan 09**
- **Key FLT business model elements introduced – consultant incentive model to be deployed from July 2009**
- **Improved 2H results expected – moderate trading losses and some restructuring**
- **Significant turnaround expected in 09/10**

# Overview: Investment portfolio



- At December 31, FLT's cash and investment portfolio was \$657m (\$631.9m last year)
- Currently, about 78% is cash, 19% is fixed income investments and 3% is corporate CDOs, half of which are due to mature late in 2010
- CDOs relate to blue-chip US corporations and are not directly exposed to sub prime mortgage products
- FLT incurred abnormal investment losses of \$27.8m during 1H, related predominantly to impaired US equities which have now been sold
- FLT intends to hold remaining securities

# Strategic update



## PEOPLE



Recruitment and development programs in place to attract and retain the right people

## GROW CORE, SPECIALIST & NEW BUSINESSES



Continued shop growth, expanded specialist travel model, acquired Back Roads Touring (UK), Intrepid JV & national Cruiseabout expansion

## INTEGRATED APPROACH – SALES, CUSTOMER & MKTG



Global marketing system & workshops, team goals & plans, sales conversion program

## INTEGRATED GLOBAL PRODUCT & BUYING SYSTEM



Expanded product offering to improve margin. Global product platform in AU, NZ, Canada & UK, Launch in USA (4<sup>th</sup> qtr). Will house 15,000 products when complete

## GLOBAL CORPORATE GROWTH



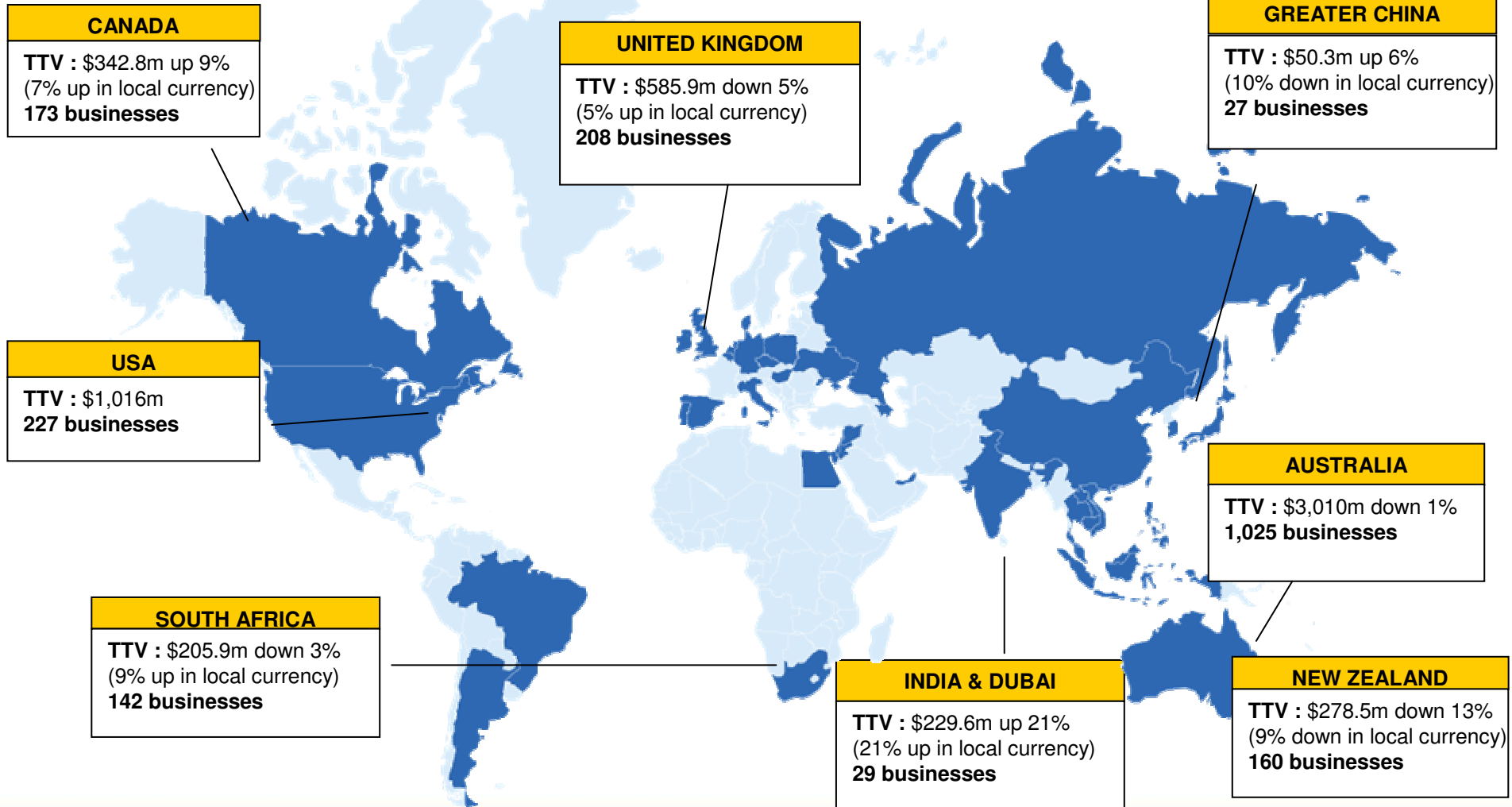
Additional 100 business development managers globally to secure new accounts

## USA LEISURE



Improvement initiatives well progressed in Liberty, strong customer enquiry growth & cost reduction

# Global footprint



# Broader foundations



## INTERNATIONAL GROWTH

- Australia still largest contributor to group results, but overseas operations gaining scale
- Overseas operations now account for half of FLT's TTV and businesses
- Five years ago, about 75% of group TTV was generated in Australia & NZ

## TRAVEL DIVERSIFICATION

- FLT now a major player in the three travel sectors – leisure, corporate and wholesale
  - ✓ Leisure will generate 55-60% of group TTV during 2008/09
  - ✓ Corporate will generate about 35%
  - ✓ External wholesale (GOGO and Explore) will generate about 5-7.5%
  - ✓ Internal wholesaler Infinity Holidays also growing rapidly and now FLT's largest supplier globally, supplying 35-40% of the total land packages sold by FLT in Australia (up from 30% last year)

# FLT's wholesale business



## OVERVIEW

- FLT uses a mix of internal and external wholesalers
- FLT's brands include Infinity, GOGO (USA and Canada), Explore and the Global Product Powerhouse (GPPH)
- Wholesale rates are contracted directly (through GPPH) but FLT does not hold inventory
- By wholesaling internally FLT:
  - ✓ Maintains margin in-house, rather than paying funds to an external supplier; and
  - ✓ Will typically hold cash longer, as suppliers (hotels etc) are paid after customers travel (rather than as soon as customers pay in full)

## IMPACT ON CASH FLOW

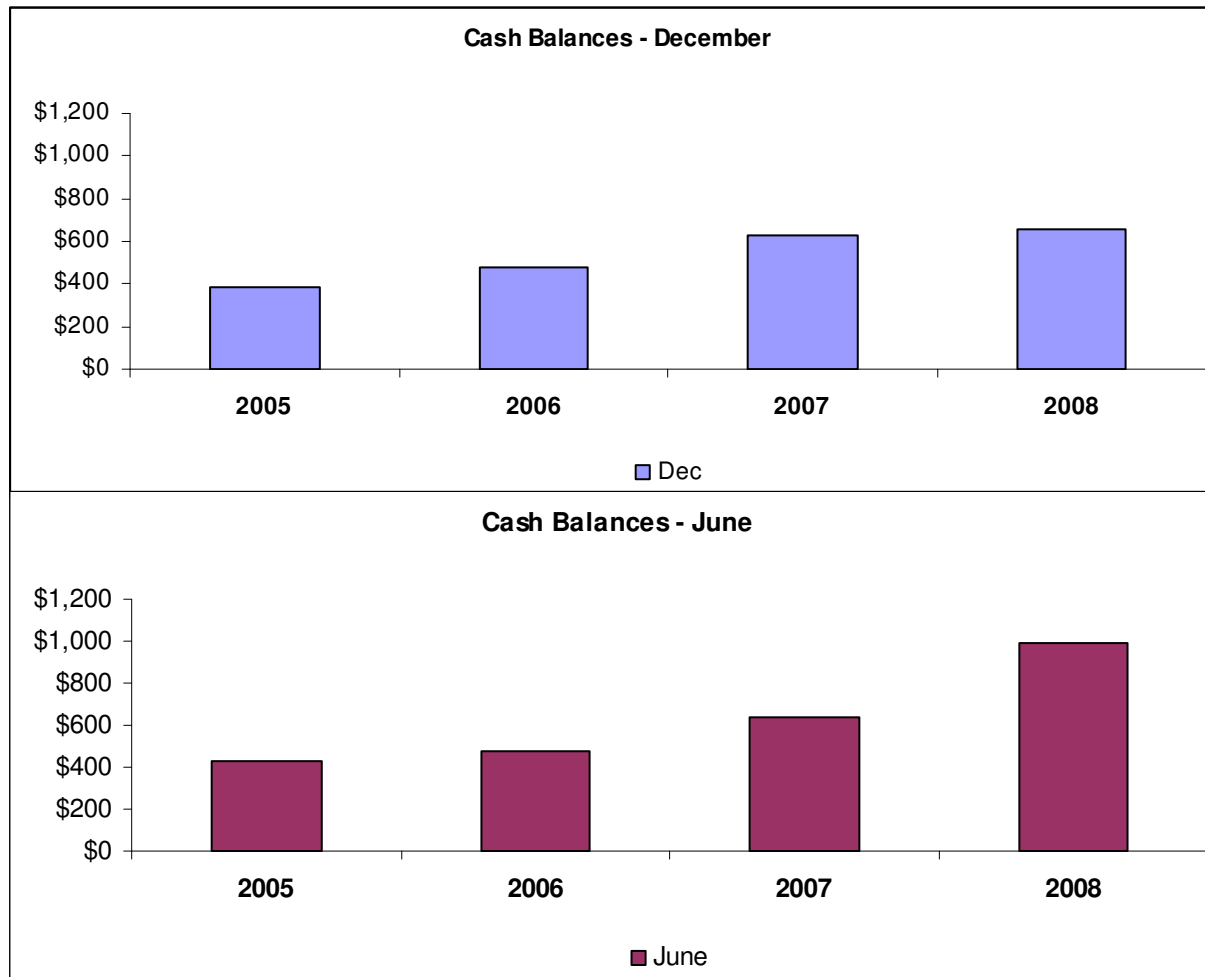
- FLT's internal wholesalers accumulate larger cash pools during peak booking seasons (March-June) and pay suppliers during peak travel seasons (July-September)
- Payment system contrasts with external wholesale (largely Qantas Holidays in the past) and airfares sales, where cash transfers almost immediately to the wholesaler or airline

# Cash flow



- **Overall reserves up 71% in three years – \$657m at Dec 31 2008, \$384m at Dec 31 2005**
  - ✓ **Slight increase between Dec 31 2008 and Dec 31 2007, reflecting sluggish 1H sales and shift to internal wholesaling (largely in Australia and USA)**
  - ✓ **Balances affected by seasonality - cash accumulates during six months to June 30**
  
- **Over past three years, June 30 balances exceeded Dec 31 balances by:**
  - ✓ **57% during 2007/08**
  - ✓ **32% during 2006/07; and**
  - ✓ **25% during 2005/06**
  
- **June 30 2008 balance (~\$1b) abnormally high, reflecting:**
  - ✓ **The addition of GOGO and Liberty (both accumulate cash during a 2H ahead of the peak tourist seasons and pay-out during a 1H)**
  - ✓ **Exceptionally strong trading in Australia and elsewhere late in the 2007/08 2H**
  - ✓ **A significant boost in Infinity's sales and cash holdings, following FLT's decision to end its preferred supplier relationship with Qantas Holidays; and**
  - ✓ **Timing of payments to airlines**

# Cash growth



# Future strategic priorities



## GROWTH



Increase market share in core, specialised travel and new businesses

## CUSTOMER RETENTION



Create ownership at business & individual level of an effective & aligned approach to sales, product & marketing

## GLOBAL BUYING & DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM



Increase range & available margin for all FLT business units

## FOCUS ON CASH



Focus on cash generation through improved earnings, reduced costs & enhanced working capital management

## USA



Generate consistent profit growth in USA corporate, retail and wholesale businesses

## INDIA



Slower rate of growth next 2 years to deliver consistent cash return

# Outlook



## UNCERTAIN CONDITIONS



Impossible to predict likely full year result ahead of busiest trading months. Slow Jan and Feb means FLT unlikely to equal record \$120m 2007/08 2H result

## GROWTH INDICATORS



Challenges remain but some recent signs of improvement – good Travel Expo sales, leisure enquiry and corporate lead generation. Cheap deals to stimulate short-term demand – prices likely to return to sustainable levels long-term

## FOCUS ON COSTS AND CONVERSION



Ongoing strategies in place to ensure costs flex with revenue changes and FLT converts enquiry it continues to generate

## GLOBAL IMPROVEMENT



Expecting ongoing profitability in Aus, UK, Canada, NZ and RSA and improvement in USA

## CAPITAL EXPENDITURE



1H expenditure channelled to shop upgrades, key IT platforms and head office fitouts. Expected to reduce during 2H (as shop growth slows) and match D&A going forward

## 2009/10



Without impairment and with improvement from Liberty, results expected to move towards 07/08

# End of Presentation



## Questions