

## KHANDELA HAVELI-JAIPUR Tel: +91 141-4036060-66

e-mail: info@khandelahaveli.com / website: www.khandelahaveli.com

CASTLE KHANDELA-KHANDELA Tel: 01575-261227, 260059 Mob: +91 9079449949, 9829933991 Email: info@castlekhandela.com/ raisal@castlekhandela.com Website: www.castlekhandela.com

## Travelport to update API suite

**Greg Webb**, Travelport's new global CEO, shares plans for the upcoming year, which include a number of announcements and new suite capabilities in the marketplace in 2020.

YKanchan Nath

**Q**What will be Travelport's strategy for 2020? We will be investing significantly into moving into our next-generation platform. In some ways, we want people to stop talking about us as a

next-generation platform. In some ways, we want people to stop talking about us as a Year 2020 will lead us to roll out a new capability around our API suite, so our trip services platform will lend itself to our

GDS because I just look at us as an electronic exchange between the buyers and sellers of travel. So, we will be investing in that. Year 2020 will lead us to roll out a new capability around our API suite, so our trip services platform will lend itself to our cloud-based point of sale. It will lead to a new way of thinking, a broader

cloud-based point of sale **7** 

**Q**With increasing dependence on direct hotel and flight bookings, where does the travel agent stand? Airlines and hotels have been focused on direct bookings for a long time. The major shift for a direct model was not a shift from a travel agency to a supplier website, it was merely

source and repository for trip

data. So, I am quite energised

about the next-generation

platform and where we are

headed with that. Next year,

you will see a lot of announce-

moving consumers who used to do direct business via the phone to direct business via the web. It's not that there has been a major shift in that over the last 20 years.

Reality of the industry is that consumers want choice. So, unless you are in a captive market, one where a single carrier/single hotelier has a dominant position in that market, consumers are looking for choice. They want to understand what is going to be a fair deal and they will continue to shop aggressively to understand which carrier and which hotel provides them the most effective deal. It's not efficient in any way, shape or form, either on the corporate or the leisure side, to spend time going to 30 different websites. It's the aggregation capability

we provide in the GDS model that provides the ability to reach out to multiple hotels and airlines, multiple car companies, multiple tour operators and multiple cruise lines, all at the same time.

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## **Making GDS easier to use**

'The travel and tourism industry in India is rapidly evolving and responding to new-age technological advancements along with changes in consumer preferences. According to the Global Digital Traveler Research conducted by Travelport this year, Indian travellers came out to be the most digitally advanced among 23,000 travellers across 20 countries analysed. This Sandeep Dwivedi Chief Operating Officer InterGlobe Technology Quotient shows how

technology is making its way into the aviation sector.

According to IATA, India is all set to become the third largest civil aviation market in the world by 2024, and we are committed to be a part of this promising future. Our aim in the coming year would be to continue catering to the diverse needs of the industry; deliver simplified travel selling technological solutions to OTAs, travel consultants, TMCs and hotels that can leverage it to offer customercentric services conveniently. With the new capabilities around Travelport's Trip Services API suite, its Smartpoint client-based point of sale and other related products that are equipped with a host of brilliant features to provide customers with exceptional services, we are already moving in the right direction to build a better future for our partners. We are growing towards making the GDS easier to use for the industry.

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