

KLM ROYAL DUTCH AIRLINES

Form 425

April 23, 2004

## Edgar Filing: KLM ROYAL DUTCH AIRLINES - Form 425

Filed by: KLM Royal Dutch Airlines  
pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act of 1933  
Subject Company: KLM Royal Dutch Airlines  
Exchange Act File Number: 001-04059  
Date: April 23, 2004

### Legal Information

The combination of KLM and Air France will be implemented through an exchange offer made by Air France to all shareholders of KLM. This document is neither an offer to purchase nor a solicitation of an offer to sell shares of KLM. In connection with the exchange offer, Air France has filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) a registration statement on Form F-4 which includes a prospectus relating to the offer, and a tender offer statement on Schedule TO, and KLM has filed with the SEC a solicitation/recommendation statement on Schedule 14D-9. KLM shareholders who are U.S. persons or are located in the United States are urged to carefully review the registration statement on Form F-4 and the prospectus included therein, the Schedule TO and other documents relating to the offer that have been filed by Air France with the SEC because these documents contain important information relating to the offer. You are also urged to read the Schedule 14D-9 that has been filed with the SEC by KLM regarding the offer. You may obtain a free copy of these documents and other documents filed by Air France and KLM with the SEC at the SEC's web site at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). You may also inspect and copy the registration statement on Form F-4, as well as any documents incorporated by reference therein, the Schedule TO and the Schedule 14D-9 at the public reference room maintained by the SEC at 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information about the public reference room. U.S. shareholders may obtain these documents free of charge by contacting our information agent, Georeson Shareholder Communications Inc., at 1-212-440-9800 or toll free at 1-866-297-1410. YOU SHOULD READ THE PROSPECTUS AND THE SCHEDULE 14D-9 CAREFULLY BEFORE MAKING A DECISION CONCERNING THE OFFER.

### Forward-Looking Statements

The information herein contains, and Air France, KLM and their representatives may make, forward-looking statements either orally or in writing, about Air France, KLM and their businesses. These forward-looking statements, which include, but are not limited to, statements concerning the financial condition, results of operations and businesses of Air France and KLM and the benefits expected to result from the contemplated transaction, are based on management's current expectations and estimates. These forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors, many of which are outside of Air France or KLM's control and are difficult to predict, that may cause actual results to differ materially from any future results expressed or implied from the forward-looking statements. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve risks and uncertainties including, among others: the risk that the conditions relating to the required minimum tender of shares might not be satisfied; failure by Air France and KLM shareholders to approve the planned corporate reorganizations; inability to obtain, or meet the conditions imposed for, regulatory approvals in a timely manner or at all; the risk that the businesses of Air France and KLM will not be integrated successfully and the the expected synergies and cost savings will not be achieved; unanticipated expenditures; changing relationships with customers, suppliers and strategic partners; and other economic, business, competitive and/or regulatory factors affecting the businesses of Air France and KLM generally. Air France and KLM caution that the foregoing list of important factors is not exhaustive. Additional information regarding the factors and events that could cause differences between forward-looking statements and actual results in the future is contained in KLM's Securities and Exchange Commission filings, including KLM's Annual Report on Form 20-F. Air France and KLM undertake no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

---

04/028

### **KLM STATEMENT**

AMSTELVEEN, April 23, 2004 In response to various reports in the Dutch media, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines hereby clarifies the status of the U.S. authorities approval of the merger between Air France and KLM.

The U.S. competition authorities approved the proposed merger between Air France and KLM on February 11, 2004, without imposing any restrictions or additional conditions. Air France and KLM will, however, have to honor the existing competitive situation between their partners Delta Air Lines, Northwest Airlines, and Continental Airlines.

This approval means that projected cooperative activities ensuing from the merger between Air France and KLM can be implemented as planned. The cooperative activities include the harmonization of service schedules, the linkage of frequent flyer programs, and reciprocal lounge access for passengers.

KLM, Northwest Airlines, and Continental Airlines intend to join SkyTeam later this year, once the merger between Air France and KLM has been rounded off. The airlines in question do not require approval from the U.S. authorities for this move. However, the European and American members of SkyTeam will have to obtain further approval from the authorities if they wish to intensify their partnership.

**AMS/DR/JCH.rdn**