

## Business Attitudes to Expansion of Heathrow Airport –

### Topline Results 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008

- Continental Research interviewed a random sample of 501 small, medium and large businesses across Great Britain
- Fieldwork was conducted by telephone between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November 2008
- Small businesses are defined as having a turnover of between £50,000 and £1m, medium businesses are defined as having a turnover of £1m-£20m and large businesses are defined as having a turnover of £20m+
- The data is weighted by size, region and sector to make the results representative of the 1,242,000 companies with a turnover of over £50,000 as estimated by BERR
- Interviews were conducted with senior financial decision makers in each business
- Figures based on the full sample have a confidence interval of approximately  $\pm 4\%$
- Where results do not add up to 100, this may be due to multiple responses, computer rounding or the exclusion of don't knows / not stated
- An asterisk (\*) represents a figure which is less than 0.5% but greater than zero
- The questions were designed and the research project managed by Woodnewton Associates

**Q1 How much do you feel you know about the proposals to build a third runway at Heathrow Airport?**  
READ OUT, SINGLE CODE

4%	Know a great deal
14%	Know a fair amount
65%	Heard of but don't know very much
18%	Never heard of the plans
1%	Don't know (DO NOT READ OUT)

**Q2 Do you think building a third runway at Heathrow will generally have...** ASK ALL, READ OUT, SINGLE CODE

4%	A positive impact on your business
1%	A negative impact on your business
95%	Will not make much difference to your business
1%	Don't know (DO NOT READ OUT)

**Q3 The Conservative Party have said that instead of building a third runway at Heathrow, if they were in power they would build a high speed rail link to London, Birmingham, Manchester and the North. Do you think building a high speed rail link will generally have...** ASK ALL, READ OUT, SINGLE CODE

23%	A positive impact on your business
1%	A negative impact on your business
76%	Will not make much difference to your business
1%	Don't know (DO NOT READ OUT)

Q4 **Which proposals do you think would benefit your business more - building a third runway at Heathrow or building a new high speed rail link?** DO NOT READ OUT, CODE AS APPROPRIATE, ASK ALL

4%	Heathrow
37%	Rail link
57%	Neither (DO NOT READ OUT)
2%	Don't know (DO NOT READ OUT)

Q5 **The present Government has said it will make a decision about Heathrow expansion this year so that a new runway can be built and be operational by 2020, but the Conservatives have warned businesses not to become involved in Heathrow's expansion as they would scrap plans should they win the next election.**

**Given the next General Election needs to take place by May 2010, do you think the decision on Heathrow's expansion should be made by the present Government or should it be made by the next Government following a General Election?** ASK ALL, DO NOT READ OUT, CODE AS APPROPRIATE

27%	This Government
48%	Next Government
25%	Don't Know (DO NOT READ OUT)