

# Google & Travel

BRM Update



23 July 2018



Attorney Client Privileged

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**EXHIBIT  
PSX00608**

## Objectives

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- Provide top-level view on **Google's role and impact in travel distribution**
- Outline **industry concerns** and resulting potential **risks** for Google
- Discuss and agree on **joint EMEA approach to mitigate concerns and risks**

Google

### NEW SPEAKING NOTES

We're here today to provide a top-level view and Google role/impact in/to the travel industry as we see it. We'd like your confirmation that you share the same views on both the market and partner challenges.

We'll skip over the high level travel summary that you would have read in the pre-read and focus mainly on the Partner Concerns and how we may be able to tackle Trust issues that currently exist in EMEA

Additionally, we will be asking for your support and agreement on a shared EMEA approach to represent to MTV.

### ORIGINAL NOTES

Provide top-level view on status quo of the travel industry

Highlight Google impact on the travel industry

Outline industry concerns and resulting risks for Google

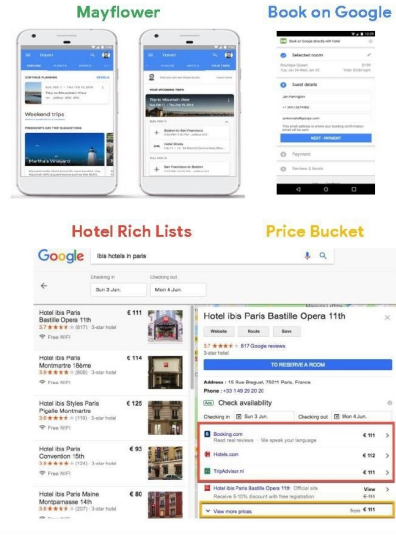
Show Google approach to mitigate concerns and risks (on voice track: "... and especially How EPS empowers local LCS teams)

Discuss next steps and gain BRM support

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## But looking at ‘small’ changes holistically, Google's impact to travel distribution is significant

- % of travel online sales coming through Google platforms (SEO, SEM, Hotel/Flight Search)
- **Google Hotel Ads (GHA) + Google Flight Search (GFS)** live in UK+DE since 2013, GHA live globally 2018, GFS live in all of Europe since 2017 + increasingly integrated into core search
- **Mayflower & Unified (Travel) Header** [\[blog\]](#) integrates flights + hotel search UX
- “**Book on Google**” [\[doc\]](#) implies Google is acting like an OTA
- **GHA Hotel Rich Lists** don't allow enforcement of OTA & Hotel contracts
- **GHA Change to Auction Price Budgets** [\[article\]](#) was perceived as favouring T1 OTAs/Metas and incremental advertising revenue
- **Trips App expanding coverage** and adding discounts
- Mobile search results **reducing visible organic inventory**
- Assistant / Voice search leading to ‘single answer’ environment



Voice track: We believe are just tweaking/optimizing the user experience), looking at Google holistically through our partners eyes, Google is really tightening its control over travel distribution.

We do a lot of seemingly small experiments but it creates insecurity when  a) we're not communicating our plans, and  b) partners in the industry are always seeing change to our products officially or via tests, which creates "insecurity or FUD"

A reason is certainly also our internal structure / fragmentation

Mayflower & Unified (Travel) Header [\[blog\]](#) UX changes to our platform evoke concern from the market as these cosmetic changes 'look' and 'feel' like an OTA albeit without fulfillment, MoR, and/or customer service.

“Book on Google” [\[doc\]](#) Name implies that Google is acting like an OTA; “Easy Checkout” or “Facilitated Booking” would better represent the action and concurrently alleviate partner concerns

Hotels Rich List trigger on branded queries (Aug'15) which introduces competition from aggregators contravening aggregator/hotel contracts on brand term use in digital campaigns. This allows OTAs to feature in GHA even when hotel brand terms are protected under OTA/Hotel contracts.

GHA Change to Auction Price Budgets [\[article\]](#): OTA/Metas claim that change favored Google revenue over User's interests where Users aren't provided the 'cheapest' rate upfront and are required to clicking through Trips app (incl. Reservations, tourist attractions, weather, events, restaurants, itineraries and maps) is expanding coverage and adding discounts

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# Priority partners increasingly voice concerns

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## Concern 1:

Google is disintermediating end user relationships

"We don't need to ask if Google is becoming an OTA, we already have the answer"  
- **Confidential** Chief Brand Officer

"I think we are in an absolute war [with technology platforms like Google, Amazon and Facebook, for who owns the customer."  
- **Confidential** CEO,  
**Confidential**

"The main concerns are around FS as another disintermediation tool"  
**Confidential**

## Concern 2:

Costs are rising, and traffic is falling

"Google is deliberately making it impossible to compare Hotel Ads and SEM to squeeze maximum revenue from US."  
- **Confidential** SVP Acquisition

"From a monetization perspective, Google have not shown the same efforts to support direct as they have done for programmatic and indirect."  
- **Confidential** Global Head of Ad Operations, **Confidential**

## Concern 3:

Mobile is reducing organic inventory; Assistant may make that worse

"In a world of voice search, how can I prevent Google owning all our traffic?"  
- **Confidential** SVP Product

"On mobile, GFS is already taking the entire screen."  
- **Confidential** COO

"We don't believe that all (or 90%) of the Hotel Ads traffic is incremental."  
- **Confidential** MO,  
**Confidential**

## Concern 4:

Google favors Tier 1 OTAs/Metas

"With GFS, Google is expanding on my core business and we already know that no one can compete. What's the future for a flight Metasearch?"  
**Confidential**

In relation to GHA price bucket auction changes, "You favor the big guys (eg. Booking, Expedia) at the expense of the smaller OTAs and Metas"  
- **Confidential** CEO, **Confidential**

**Confidential**

Google

Source: Partner feedback from external and internal interviews with both Googlers and partners.

T2 OTAs fear HF/FS as a competitor.  We continue to invest in better User tools.

Google flight features hurt suppliers and discriminate OTAs by displacing organic

Concern that Google is becoming a booking engine (or Meta)

Meta-to-Meta Policy has been perceived as unfair by Metas claiming Google had 'banned' them. Press attributes policy changes as a response to Shopping decision

Suppliers claim our costs are rising, and traffic is falling.  As auction pressure rises, so do prices. As our user 'answers' improve, traffic decreases.

Suppliers fear commoditization of their offering

Market believes CPC rises are controlled by Google

Mobile is reducing organic inventory; Assistant could make that worse.

Suppliers claim they have to spend more on SEM to be found.

OTAs concerned about single answer voice searches

Suppliers and T2 OTAs/Metas feel we favor T1 OTAs/Metas.  **Confidential** charges 15%+ to hotels. EMEA/APAC hotels have limited negotiating power (75% non chain vs. 25% US).

Hotel Rich Lists benefit OTAs

T2 perception that Google gives T1s preference to test new products

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Such concerns lead to business and policy risks

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"We understand that it is important to work with you (on GFS), but **we do not trust Google** because we believe you will change your strategy in the future at a cost to us."

[Confidential] SVP [Confidential]

Negative perceptions are hindering our ability to move conversations beyond marketing and distribution, and capture further opportunities including **Product Adoption, Data, Assistant & Cloud** across the whole value chain of Priority Partners

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The larger we become, the more humble we need to be.

Trust is the main issue as partners fundamentally do not believe we're only doing this for the "User" as partners claim that our actions suggest that "Revenue" is our main priority. Concern that we'll change direction later again at the expense of our partners.

Our partner managers are often having difficult conversations; if a disproportionate amount of time is spent on these issues, it means it is distracting from discussions around expansion and partnership to support long term growth with our partners. [eg. BoG 1-2 years for [Confidential] focus on Google Flight Search perceived OTA exclusion, etc]

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## The action plan to agree today: Gain trust by conveying Google's value in Travel

EPS initiatives empowering front-line teams	Desired Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Commission consulting firm <a href="#">analysis</a> to demonstrate that Google leads are more qualified and more valuable than alternative channels [Q4'18]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Higher trust, Google = valuable intermediary</li> <li>● Lower fears over rising costs, seeing higher Rol of using Google's vs. other channels</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Develop One-Google partner-centric "<a href="#">Enabler</a>" narrative incl. solutions across GBO &amp; PAs (eg. Cloud, Assistant) [Q3'18]</li> <li>● Expand scope and depth of responses to policy questions "<a href="#">TravelToughQuestions</a>" [On-Going]</li> <li>● <b>Trial; Confidential</b> Machine Learning 'proof of concept' on route network planning. [TBD]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Higher trust, Google = reliable enabler of all (T1+T2 OTAs, Metas) partners' success</li> <li>● Clarity about changes + benefits of new solutions (incl. Mobile and Assistant) and beyond marketing</li> <li>● Positioning of Google as innovation partner</li> </ul>

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Partnerships Solutions equips front-line teams with the right proof points to convey Google's value in travel distribution and beyond

# Local front-line teams leading partner relationships

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Priority Partner	Executive Sponsors	Partner Managers	Relationship Tone*	Comments
Suppliers (Air, Hotel, Rail, & Packages)	Ronan Harris	Sébastien Pichon	Yellow	Active engagement with BA/VY/IB, but lacking engagement at senior IAG level.
	Sebastien Missoffe	Romain Mouchet	Green	Agreed to inaugural One-Google JBP; successful
	Marianne Stroehmann	Lutz Behrendt Tobias Guhike	Yellow	LCS effectively driving One-Google, establishing working cadence and expectations with GCP & GPP.
	Sebastien Missoffe	Jalil Chikhi Romain Mouchet	Green	Strong relationships at all levels
	Marianne Stroehmann	Lutz Behrendt Patrick Haller	Yellow	Positive LCS engagement, requires further engagement x-functionally (eg. GCP, Cloud)
	Sebastien Missoffe	Romain Mouchet Gentiane Pozzi Barret	Green	One-Google engagement across LCC, GPP, & TravelBD; further upside in c-level relationship
	Marianne Stroehmann	Lutz Behrendt Sarah Glate	Green	Best in class One-Google engagement across multiple business lines.
	Matt Brittin	Marcel Verboom	Green	Positive working relationship despite pull back on spend.
	Ronan Harris	Finnbar Cornwall Amit Goyal	Red	Positive working relationship, yet have open EC complaint
	Fuen Clemares	Guillermo Albizuri Javier Catalán	Red	Positive business relationship (eg. \$6m Cloud contract); they have an open EC complaint and voice GFS issues
Online Travel Agents & Metas	Ronan Harris	Zakie Beg	Yellow	Positive engagement in LPS/LCS; work required in Cloud and other Google business/product lines
	Marianne Stroehmann	Henrike Lewerenz Bryan Simis	Red	Positive working relationship, yet have open EC complaint

\*Relationship Tone automatically RED if there is a formal complaint lodged (in)directly [EMEA Priority Partner OKR tracking](#) / \*\*Relationship is based on their relationship with Google, not necessarily the teams working with them



- Goodwill gained with the Customer Intimacy gtech premium project: a Senior Global tech Lead, Fernando Benito, spends half of his time for Confidential n°1 priority Customer Intimacy project
- Confidential Cloud Deal made possible through effective One-Google Engagement / the ES team have showed perseverance in managing Odigeo who have been very vocal.
- Confidential is happy working with us and is supported by a very engaged and capable Google team, especially after their inclusion in Google Hotels Ads as a Meta (Meta-to-Meta) policy

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## Key points for discussion

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- Agree on concerns/grievances that are impacting trust in Google?
- Feedback on planned approach to counter these grievances?
- Can we work together and assign a small team to work on a shared EMEA view on Travel priorities (and OKR alignment) with Eng/Product?

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Google

### Recommended Questions:

Do you agree that the 4 concerns/grievances that are impacting "trust" are the right ones to focus on?

Costs are rising, and traffic is falling

Mobile is reducing organic inventory; Assistant may make that worse

Google favors Tier 1 OTAs/Metas

Google is disintermediating end user relationships

Do you agree with our approach to counter these grievances? Suggestions for additional initiatives welcomed.

Do our ToughQuestions communication guidelines on policy issues satisfy our partner concerns?

Can we work together and assign a small team to work with us on a shared EMEA view on Product Priorities (and OKR alignment) to present to Eng/Product before business planning in September?

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### NOTES FROM CARLO MEETING 20 JULY 2018:

Do you agree with our concerns listed?

Can you agree to assign a small group to work on product priorities?

Do you agree with our approach?

Can we agree with what we discuss with on what we want to recommend before business planning in September?

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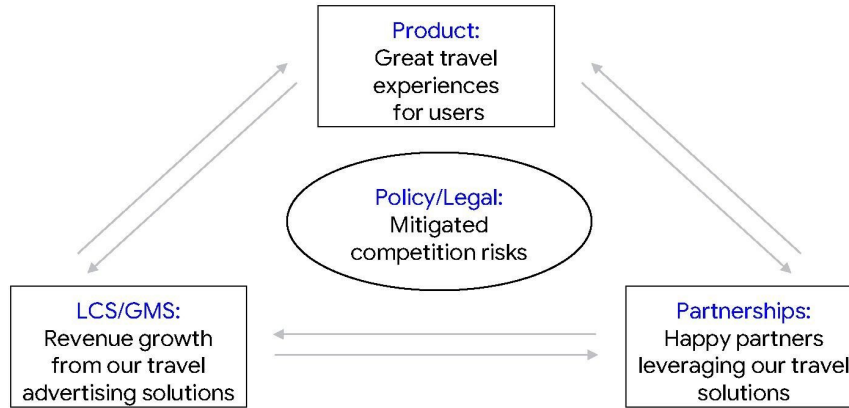
Are the trust issues the right ones

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## Ask: Joint EMEA push to align different internal goals

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... and clarify our global travel OKRs / strategy

Google

Ultimately, we need to address the root cause of the symptoms we are seeing: Lack of trust of our partners  
We need to get together internally across product, LCS/GHS, partnerships, policy, legal and align our differing internal goal, create a common global travel strategy and clearly communicate that strategy to everyone

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# APPENDIX

## Travel industry - some key figures

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- Global travel industry gross bookings: **\$1.6 Trillion in 2017, 50% is Corporate**
- Travel and tourism account for **10.2% of Global GDP**
- International travel departures doubled from **600 million to 1.3 billion** in 20 years
- eMarketer estimates by 2020 worldwide digital travel sales is expected to reach **\$855bn**
  - Gross bookings of 10 largest, publicly reported OTAs reached **\$272bn** in 2017
  - Booking Holdings and Expedia Group accounted for **62%**
- **Google Ads + Vertical Search** for travel generated **Confidential** Google revenues in 2017
  - Hotel Ads generated **Confidential** in 2017; 2018 revenue outlook **Confidential**

Google

Travel is big, 10% of global GDP and an important sector for Google, **Confidential** of our revenues

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