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## Marriage tourism boost

**INDUSTRY** figures have forecast a major boost to travel and tourism as a result of yesterday's same-sex marriage result, signalling millions of dollars in additional spending.

As the Federal Government this morning confirmed it would aim to have legislation passed by Christmas, tourism organisations have welcomed the prospect of a surge in wedding travel and honeymoon bookings.

Gay and Lesbian Tourism Australia president Mario Paez said weddings would drive additional tourism spend in both cities and regions.

"So many same-sex couples have been waiting for change so they can marry and celebrate their love with family and friends and we anticipate that this

long-awaited amendment to the Marriage Act will see an increase in tourism driven by weddings and honeymoon travel," he said.

Tourism Australia md John O'Sullivan said the yes vote reinforced Australia's reputation as an inclusive destination.

"From a tourism point of view, the pink dollar is big business and same sex marriage tourism is on the rise," O'Sullivan said.

"Nearly half of LGBTI couples who tied the knot in New Zealand last year came from other countries," he said.

"Legalising same-sex marriage would undoubtedly bring similar international tourism benefits."

ANZ senior economist Cherelle Murphy told the *Herald Sun* wedding expenditure alone could top \$650 million in the first 12 months, while AMP chief economist Shane Oliver said the overall benefit over five years could amount to \$2 billion.

**MEANWHILE**, the Vienna Tourist Board is offering a honeymoon to the first Australian same-sex couple to marry and provide their marriage certificate.

### Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today has eight pages of news, including a photo page for **Si Holidays** plus full pages from:

- Melia Hotels
- AA Appointments jobs

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## Travel Daily

on location aboard

### Crystal Bach

Today's issue of TD is coming to you from Mainz, Germany courtesy of Crystal River Cruises as we experience the line's recently launched *Crystal Bach*.

*CRYSTAL Bach* is docked in the Breisach today, allowing guests to explore the charming French city of Colmar as well as the nearby Black Forest.

Complimentary walking tours showcased the highlights of Colmar which is full of museums, churches and 1600's architecture.

The locals are very busy preparing for the festive season, with decorations being erected in the lead-up to the annual month-long Christmas Markets.

Winter is definitely on its way too, with temperatures hovering around freezing - so the *Bach* is a delightful haven in the cold.

## Anderson leaves Hawaii

**HAWAII** Tourism Oceania (HTO) is on the look-out for a new regional head to lead its local operations after the departure of country manager Kerri Anderson.

In a statement to industry partners, HTO confirmed Anderson has resigned from the

organisation to pursue other career opportunities.

"HTO wishes her well and thanks her sincerely for her contribution to the teams' marketing effort over the last two years," the organisation said.

"We wish her well and will commence recruiting for her replacement in the coming days."

HTO has also announced its conference and incentives account manager Holly Ballard will depart 09 Dec on maternity leave, to be replaced by Kris Phadungkiatipong who joins from Hyatt Hotels in Sydney.

## Zimbabwe warning

**THE** Department of Foreign Affairs has increased the level of advice for Zimbabwe's capital, Harare and is now advising Australian travellers to reconsider their need to travel there.

The Australian Embassy in Harare has been closed amid "escalating domestic political tensions and [the] unpredictable security situation".

Australians in need of urgent consular assistance in Zimbabwe are advised to call the 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on +61 2 6261 3305.

## AL Cuba pullout

**ALASKA** Airlines will end its flights to Havana in response to Cuban travel restrictions imposed by the Trump administration.

AL says its LAX-HAV flights will end 22 Jan due to the renewed limits on American travellers.

## Vale Daughne Kelpie

**A DOYENNE** of the Australian travel sector died last weekend, with 93-year-old Daughne Kelpie passing on after more than 55 years working in the industry.

Kelpie started her career as a hostess flying across the Pacific with British Commonwealth Pacific Airlines (BCPA) in unpressurised aircraft.

BCPA later became Qantas Empire Airways in 1954 meaning she was one of those original glamorous Qantas flight attendants.

After leaving the airline in 1964 after 16 years of flying, she joined Intermedia Travel where she was a director and co-owner until 1991, and then continued consulting looking after her own clients until 2003.

Daughne Kelpie's funeral will take place at 1.30pm next Mon 20 Nov at the East Chapel, Northern Suburbs Crematorium in Sydney's North Ryde.



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## Essendon airport renewal

MELBOURNE'S Essendon Airport is preparing for a \$3 million renewal of its terminal building as it aims to boost its role as a regional travel hub.

The airport yesterday announced it will be renamed Essendon Fields Airport to reflect the name of the large-scale commercial developments surrounding what was once Melbourne's main gateway.

Having been privatised in 2001, it now focuses on regional flights, corporate jet operations and emergency services.

"There are now four airlines

servicing eight regional destinations and 100,000 passengers using Essendon Fields to travel to regional airports," said airport ceo Chris Cowan.

Destinations served include Warnambool, Portland, King and Flinders Islands, Dubbo, Wollongong and Orange.

Refurbishments to the airport's 1959 terminal building include new check-in and passenger screening facilities, a cafe and eight commercial tenancies.

The works follow an \$8 million main runway overlay and \$12 million invested in new hangars.

## Thailand roadshow

TOURISM Authority of Thailand, Australia (TAT) will host the next annual "Amazing Thailand Roadshow" between 30 Apr and 07 May 2018.

The roadshow will showcase TAT's new global marketing concept "Open to the New Shades of Thailand".

Events will be held in Auckland on 30 Apr, followed by Melbourne, Sydney and Perth on 02, 03 and 07 May.

More information on the event is available by email - [CLICK HERE](#).

## Qantas virtual class

QANTAS will hold a virtual class next Wed on "Trends from QIC".

The session will cover common questions Qantas Industry Centre gets asked.

Topics include requesting a wheelchair, travelling with guide dogs, what's new with QBR and the industry sales site.

Sessions run at 0830, 0930, 1130 and 1430, all times in AEDT. [CLICK HERE](#) for more info.

## NT seeks SZX link

CHINA'S Donghai Airlines was in Darwin last week continuing talks with the Northern Territory Government about direct flights from Darwin to Shenzhen, reports *NT News*.

The visit follows a Chinese Civil Aviation Administration announcement in Jul that the airline had applied for approval for Darwin flights (*TD* 13 Jul).



## Window Seat

IT'S been 25 years since *Home Alone 2* was released, and now the hotel featured in the movie wants to give you the Kevin McAllister treatment.

The Plaza Hotel in New York City is offering a package that includes a limited edition "Home Alone" DVD set, a "Home Alone 2" backpack and an over-the-top ice cream sundae that you get in your hotel room just like Kevin did after losing his family.

To top it off, there is also a 1990s-inspired menu at one of the food halls.

The rates for the package start at US\$895, which is cheap given Kevin racked up US\$967 on room service in *Home Alone 2*.

## Airbus massive deal

AIRBUS and Indigo Partners have signed a MoU for the purchase of 430 additional A320neo family aircraft.

The aircraft will be allocated across Frontier Airlines, JetSMART, Volaris and Wizz Air. The deal is worth US\$49.5b.

MEANWHILE, flydubai has signed a deal with Boeing for 225 Boeing 737 Max aeroplanes.

Valued at US\$27b at list price, the purchase is the largest single-aisle jet order by a Middle Eastern airline and will involve the MAX 8, 9 and 10 varieties.

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QANTAS Spirit of Australia

### AW culture, wildlife

**ADVENTURE** World has added 22 new trips in its 2018/19 Exodus Culture & Wildlife brochure, with a focus on food, fitness and exploration.

A total of 209 itineraries are included in the brochure, with new adventures on offer in Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan & Kazakhstan in The Five Stans of the Silk Road package.

### Women in tourism

**THE** Stamford Plaza Melbourne will host the first Melbourne Women in Tourism Leadership Lunch event on 23 Nov.

Three speakers will present: Corina Black, gm sales, commercial & marketing, Australian Grand Prix Corporation, Anne Jamieson, director of customer experience, MCEC, and Melanie de Souza, gm digital marketing services, strategy, at Visit Victoria.

### Air Canada by voice

**AIR** Canada is stepping into the world of artificial intelligence by offering its passengers the ability to ask the airline questions using Amazon's voice service, Alexa.

Common queries such as booking quotes and the status of Air Canada flights can now be fielded by Alexa following a collaboration with artificial intelligence start-up RozieA.

### Seven Seas Splendor

**REGENT** Seven Seas Cruises has announced the name of its new ship set to hit the water in the first quarter of 2020, the *Seven Seas Splendor*.

The newest member of the fleet will feature an all-suite, all-balcony composition and capacity for 750 guests.

"*Seven Seas Splendor* will offer guests a fifth option and... unforgettable experiences," said chief executive officer of RSSC, Jason Montague.



**THE** team from Bon Voyage recently hosted key industry suppliers at an exclusive reception to celebrate the company's new brand ambassador partnership with Aussie supermodel Jennifer Hawkins (**TD** yesterday).

The event took place at Sydney's Ovolo Hotel, with key Bon Voyage clientele along with representatives of airlines, destinations and several global properties in attendance to rub shoulders with the TV presenter.

Hawkins is **pictured** above centre with Bon Voyage Travel head Gordon Bayne toasting the new agreement which will see deals promoted through Channel 9's *Today* show.

### Kokomo goes in-house for marketing

**FIJI'S** new Kokomo Private Island resort has announced it will be transitioning from its current representation arrangement with Lynne Ireland's Inspired Luxury to an in-house director of sales & marketing to work with industry partners as part of the "second stage in its global sales and marketing plan".

Odette Smith, formerly international sales manager at Hamilton Island, has been appointed to the role, and will work from the offices of the Fiji property's developer, Walker Corporation, in Sydney.

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# Travel Daily

Thursday 16th November 2017

## A Hawaiian Thanksgiving



**LAST** night over 150 industry partners and suppliers including executives from Giants Netball joined Hawaiian Airlines for an early Thanksgiving celebration.

Held at the Pullman Quay Grand Sydney Harbour, Hawaiian Airlines regional director Australia & NZ Gai Tyrrell addressed guests saying, "Thanksgiving is about saying thank you and giving - and you've all been so supportive to

us through 2017 and prior, and I'd like to thank you all".

Julie Pilcher from CiEvents was the recipient of two return tickets to Hawaii, plus an additional two tickets to give to the charity of her choice to auction off in 2018.

**Pictured** are Julie Primmer, helloworld; Joyce Weir & Gai Tyrrell, Hawaiian Airlines and Jayson Westbury, AFTA.

See more pics on **FACEBOOK**.

## Graceland lux trips

**ELVIS** Presley's Graceland has launched Graceland Excursions, offering a series of music and entertainment day-trip experiences, with guests touring like the "King of Rock 'n' Roll" in a luxury motorcoach.

Initial tours will include trips to Tupelo, Mississippi, Elvis Presley's birthplace, and the Mississippi Delta region - known as the Birthplace of the Blues.

Graceland Excursions will preview in Dec and early Jan, ahead of the official launch of a regular, weekly schedule beginning 12 Jan 2018.

## Phelps' lagoon role

**CRYSTAL** Lagoons has announced a strategic alliance with American Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps.

The goal of the partnership is to bring swimming and water sports activities to communities around the world via Crystal Lagoons' large-scale pool technology.

Crystal Lagoons founder Fernando Fischmann said it was an honour to have Michael Phelps coming on board and investing his time in collaborating with the company.

## Airports to avoid

**HOPPER** and InsureMyTrip research teams have suggested travellers should avoid Atlanta, Los Angeles Int'l and Chicago O'Hare airports over next week's Thanksgiving break.

Atlanta is expecting to have 1.38m pax over the next week, with the busiest time at the airport expected to be at 0840.

LAX is expecting to have 1.13m peaking at 0900, and ORD will have 1.02m pax peaking at 0800.

Other busy airports include Dallas Fort Worth, New York JFK, Denver and San Francisco.



## WIN TICKETS TO THE AACTA AWARDS

Join the biggest names of the Australian film and television industry on the red carpet at the 7th Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) Awards,

held on **DELTA**

Wed 06 Dec, supported by Virgin **australia**

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Virgin Australia and Delta Air Lines are giving 4 lucky agents the opportunity to each win a double pass to the Ultimate Fan Experience which gives access to the red carpet grandstand, plus ticket access to the stylish and entertaining Awards Ceremony, including a goody bag full of memories of an extraordinary day!

To be in the running, showcase your best Hollywood moment ensuring you feature a DL and VA logo or imagery to [aactaawards@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:aactaawards@traveldaily.com.au)

## WestJet FF pairing

**WESTJET**, Air France and KLM today announced the redemption phase of their reciprocal frequent flyer agreement.

Flying Blue Miles can now be redeemed for WestJet flights and WestJet dollars can now be used for flights within the Air France and KLM network.

The announcement comes on the heels of the airlines' launch of the earn phase of their reciprocal frequent flyer and codeshare agreements.

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## HWBT & Serko knock up 21!



**HELLOWORLD** Business Travel (HWBT) and Serko are celebrating the signing of the 21st agent to their combined tech partnership.

Over 30% of the network has now adopted Serko's corporate Online Booking Tool (OBT) with plans to release a premium Zeno platform in coming months.

HWBT said since the first of its agents commenced using the platform, Helloworld Business Travel had increased its online

technology adoption by 60% in seven months.

"Seeing the agent up-take shows us that the current offering is able to meet the needs of the HWBT members," said Serko ceo Darrin Grafton.

"In consultation & collaboration with HWBT we will continue to support the network members," he said.

**Pictured:** Steve Hona, HWBT and Warren Lio, Serko.



### Sales Executive Reservation and Ticketing Consultant

Vietnam Airlines are recruiting TWO Sales Professionals for its Australia Branch; both positions are based at our Sydney CBD office.

Our successful applicants will have great opportunity to work for a fast growing international airline with a supportive team and receive full salary while being given on-the-job training.

They will work in collaboration with other Sales team members in all sales and marketing opportunities with the aim to maximize revenues and potential for Vietnam Airlines.

Our preferred candidates will possess a positive approach to problem solving, enjoy being part of a team, be a great communicator at all levels and take pride in their work.

A detailed position description and requirement for each position will be sent to interested applicants on request.

**If you have full work right in Australia and are ready to join our team please forward your application and resume by Friday 1st December 2017 to Ms. Thuy Nguyen via [admin.au@vietnamairlines.com](mailto:admin.au@vietnamairlines.com)**

*(We regret that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interview)*



## Industry Appointments

**WELCOME** to Industry Appointments, *Travel Daily's* Thursday feature which has the latest job appointments from across the industry. If you have just appointed someone to a new position and would like to update the industry email [appointments@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:appointments@traveldaily.com.au).

Tourism and sales specialist **Adam Taylor-Eruera** has been appointed as **Bluebridge** Sales Manager for New Zealand and International. Taylor-Eruera was previously at the Auckland War Memorial Museum.

**Adelaide Sightseeing Tours and Charters** has named **Tania Dalton** as Business Development Executive for the conference and event sector, as well as managing direct group bookings and corporate relationships.

**John Vasatka** will join **Ani Villas** as its new Chief Executive Officer, based in Anguilla. Vasatka has spent 12 years as gm at locations in the Caribbean, the Middle East and Sri Lanka.

Following a temporary closure of **Sofitel Wellington**, the property has welcomed **Melissa Shaw** as its new General Manager. Shaw will be tasked with driving the brand and providing bespoke guest experiences.

**Centara Hotels & Resorts** has announced the appointment of **Markland Blaiklock** as Deputy Chief Executive Officer, effective immediately.

**Paul Christie**, ceo of Walk Japan, has been appointed by **All Nippon Airways** as ANA Nihon no Michi Taishi (ANA Ambassador). In this role he will advise ANA on inbound tourism into Japan.

**Adelaide Casino** has secured **Todd Roydhouse** as the property's new Food & Beverage General Manager.

### More than points

**FREQUENT** flyers are more pleased if given the chance to earn rewards in restaurants, product purchases, and car rentals than just earning airline flights alone, according to the J.D. Power 2017 Airline Loyalty Program Satisfaction Study.

The US study measured satisfaction with airline loyalty and rewards programs based on earning, redeeming, program benefits and account mgmt.

The report found that status members were more satisfied than general members.

JetBlue was found to have the highest satisfaction, followed by Alaska Airlines.

### Byron transforms

**THE** Byron at Byron Resort & Spa has kicked off a six-week transformation period, set for completion in Jan 2018.

Facilities to be renovated, include the restaurant, bar, reception and relaxation deck.

Interior architect Rachel Luchetti will oversee the transformation.

The goal of the works is to make the property a haven for the "well-travelled Australian".

The works to the central facilities complete a full resort upgrade encompassing the refreshed suites and the relaunch of the spa.

Construction is expected to have minimal disruption to guests over Nov and Dec.



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## Si Holidays explores the South Pacific

**ON TUE**, Si Holidays brought the Pacific to Melbourne when it launched its new South Pacific specialist brand Waitui. Forty-five industry members enjoyed an intimate dinner at the Pool Deck Rooftop Bar in Carlton.

Md Tui Eurera unveiled the new brand with a touching speech and impactful brand video.

“We understand the importance of travel and the role we all must play in protecting the places we visit and in taking care of the world around us,” said Eurera.

After a recent trip to Fiji he felt the travel industry needed to drive positive change and help the local communities.

As part of the Waitui brand, \$2 from every room night booked will be donated to local charities and projects. To end the night, guests were treated to a traditional Samoan firedancing

display and an insight into South Pacific island culture.

Waitui is a traditional Fijian word that translates to ‘sea’.

The clear water that surrounds the Pacific islands is celebrated throughout the rich cultures, legends and tapestries of island life. Waitui celebrates the cultures of each destination and connects travellers to the spirit of the South Pacific.

**CLICK HERE** for more info.



**SI HOLIDAYS** managing director Tui Eurera with the Tama Tatau dance group.



**SAMOAN** dance group Tama Tatau.



**JORGE** Castillo from Canvas Group and Fasitau Ula from Samoa Tourism.

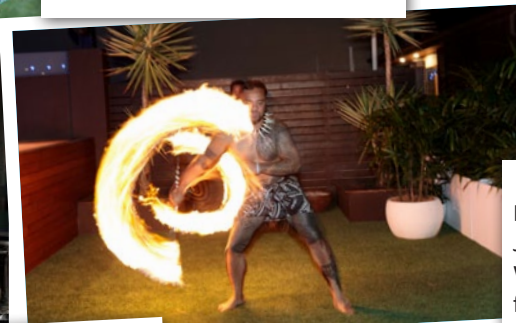


**MD TUI** Eurera announcing the new South Pacific brand Waitui.



**DIANE** Lanz, Captain Cook Cruises; Joanne Karaboikis, Auberge Resorts; Anna Whatford & Mandy Ward from Lidstrom & Clyne Travel.

**RIGHT:** Prizewinner Alison Lee from Complete Travel with Jessica Harding and Caroline Hitchen from Si Holidays.



**ABOVE:** Fire Dancing by Tama Tatau.

**BELOW:** Leigh Holme, Jessica Harding, Kerry Mansell, Frances Palfi, Jorge Castillo (Canvas Group), Simon Way, Tui Eurera, Caroline Hitchen from the Si Holidays team.



**LEFT:** Amber Kelly, ETG; Josh Zucker, Josh Zucker Travel; and Michelle Antonoff, ETG.



## EgyptAir leases

**EGYPTAIR** has announced it will add six Boeing 787-9 *Dreamliners* to its expanding fleet after signing a leasing agreement with Dublin-based AerCap.

The Boeing 787 *Dreamliner* is the fastest-selling twin-aisle airplane in history.

Meanwhile, the airline has also revealed it will lease 15 Airbus A320neo aircraft from AerCap as well, with an expected delivery date of 2020.

## W's drone racing

**W FORT** Lauderdale will play host to a new drone racing event later this month.

Expert Drones, a subsidiary of Dronepire Inc, signed a deal with W Hotels' parent company Marriott International to run 'Drone Dash', an immersive drone race taking place inside and outside the hotel on 28 Nov.

## Easter Murray cruise

**CAPTAIN** Cook Cruises has introduced a special three-night jaunt on the *Murray Princess* to celebrate the Easter long weekend next year.

Departing 30 Mar, the cruise will feature an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sun as well as onshore activities including a visit to the historic Murray Bridge.

## Nobu Hotel Atlanta

**NOBU** Hotels has announced its new Nobu Hotel and Nobu Atlanta Restaurant at Atlanta's Phipps Plaza.

The 150-room facility will boast a range of attractions including a rooftop pool and conference space, blending the eatery and hotel as one.

Construction is scheduled to begin in 2018 with a phased opening anticipated to commence in the spring of 2020.

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## Win tickets to Houston with United Airlines



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During November, *Travel Daily* and United Airlines are giving agents and wholesalers the opportunity to win flights from Sydney to Houston.

To be in the running, send us a photo, meme or similar combining United Airlines and Houston, showcasing United's new direct flights to Houston. The most creative response will win. Send your entries to [united@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:united@traveldaily.com.au)

United will begin flying non-stop from Sydney to Houston from January next year. It will be the only non-stop service between Australia and Houston. United will operate the route with their latest Dreamliners, ensuring a more comfortable experience on the ultra-long haul flight.



## Hyatt Monterey

**DAVIDSON** Hotels & Resorts has added the 550-room Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel and Spa to its growing hotel portfolio.

Situated in the centre of the California Highway 1 corridor, the hotel features 40,000m<sup>2</sup> of indoor/outdoor meetings space and championship tennis courts.

## Biometrics for SIN

**CHANGI** Airport has introduced new biometric identification systems at its Terminal 4 which opened at the end of Oct.

Supplied by IDEMIA, the new security installation uses cutting-edge face recognition and ID authentication technology to process airport passengers.

Changi Airport's new T4 can handle up to 16m pax annually with the new system designed to provide travellers with a more seamless experience.

## Whale swim & yoga

**MAJESTIC** Whale Encounters has launched a new Whale Swim and Yoga Retreat package for next year in Tonga.

Taking place from 11 Sep 2018, the eight-day retreat will feature four days' frolicking with humpback whales.

Earlybird deals are available for bookings before 15 Dec with the discounted rate being \$3700ppts, or \$3800pp for luxury offerings.

## IHG takeaway deal

**INTERCONTINENTAL** Hotels Group has added takeaway meals and dining out options as reward avenues for members of its IHG Rewards Club in the US.

A deal with Grubhub and OpenTable will mean members can earn 500 points when they first complete an OpenTable reservation and 300 points for all subsequent bookings.



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**SYDNEY SALARY PACKAGE \$75K**

This global company have a rare opportunity to join their marketing team, you will need to have digital experience to be considered. This organization is growing significantly so room for progression is definitely something they can offer. Based in the CBD and a reputable company that anyone would be proud to work for. Great package on offer and excellent working conditions. Call for more information.

**LUXURY PRODUCT**

**EXECUTIVE HOUSEKEEPER**

**ULURU – PKG DOE**

We are looking for an Executive Housekeeper to join this unique luxury accommodation. This is a hand on role where you will lead a team & be responsible for rostering, ordering, cleaning & servicing guest rooms & providing an exceptional housekeeping service. Join a company that prides themselves on their products & the service they provide. Strong salary, subsidised accommodation plus benefits on offer. Experience at a supervisor level required.

**EARN THE BIG BUCKS**

**SENIOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**

**SYD- BIG BASE \$100K PLUS BIG BONUSES**

Join this unique corporate Travel Management Company in Sydney where you will be solely responsible for your region with a lot of potential to win new business. My client is looking for an experienced Business Development Manager who has come from a TMC with a strong track record in sales. Career growth is huge for the right candidate. This company offer a great base salary of \$100k and one of the best commission schemes out there.

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