

# *Major U.S. Airlines and Credit Card Companies Eager to Operate in Cuba*

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Havana, January 28 (RHC) -- U.S. companies like American Airlines and American Express have expressed their expectations about operating in Cuba following the re-establishment of relations between Washington and Havana.

American Airlines president Scott Kirby said on Tuesday: "We don't have anything to announce today, but we will be anxious to start serving Cuba as soon as it's legally allowed," The Associated Press reported.

The list of carriers that are considering doing business with Cuba include Delta Air Lines, United Airlines and JetBlue Airways.

New U.S. travel rules have eliminated license requirements, but travel is authorized in only 12 categories, while tourism as such is not yet included on the list.

Meanwhile, American Express said it would launch operations in Cuba following President Barack Obama's decision to ease U.S. sanctions related to the over-50-year blockade against the island. According to Reuters news agency, Marina Norville, a

spokeswoman for American Express, confirmed in an e-mail that her company hoped to begin business activities in Cuba.

And MasterCard Inc said last week it would allow its cards issued in the United States to be used in Cuba beginning March 1st as Washington eases restrictions on travel, trade and financial activities.

Meanwhile, Visa Inc has not revealed its plans for Cuba, and company executives were not available for comment on Tuesday.



**Radio Habana Cuba**