



United Airlines CEO Explores Merger with American Airlines

Description

United Airlines CEO Scott Kirby disclosed on Monday that he had reached out to American Airlines regarding a potential merger, which American promptly rejected. Kirby expressed that he believed such a combination could significantly enhance services for customers, asserting his optimism that it could secure regulatory approval.

American Airlines' CEO, Robert Isom, dismissed the proposal, stating that a merger would harm customers and create an "anticompetitive" situation. Isom's comments followed Kirby's previous attempts to propose the merger to the Trump administration earlier this year, aimed at establishing a robust competitor against international airlines.

The response from American Airlines was noncommittal, with Isom stating last week that they would not engage in discussions about the merger. Kirby, reflecting on this, stated that American's public rejection indicated the merger was "off the table for the foreseeable future." He elaborated on his vision for a unified airline, highlighting the current deficit the United States faces in competition with foreign airlines, which dominate over half of the long-haul flight market into the country.

Kirby maintained that combining the resources of United and American would enhance their ability to compete against these foreign carriers. However, President Donald Trump publicly opposed the merger discussion last week, expressing his discontent with the idea during a CNBC interview. He suggested that while he is against merging the two airlines, he would support assistance for the underperforming budget airline Spirit, indicating that the federal government might get involved in a rescue plan for Spirit.

As the situation stands, there seems to be no immediate path for the proposed merger, leaving both airlines to navigate their competitive landscapes independently.

Vocabulary List:

1. **merger** //ˈmɜːdʒə// (noun): two companies joining to become one company
2. **regulatory** //ˈrɛɡjəˌleɪtəri// (adjective): about rules made by government officials
3. **anticompetitive** //ˌæn.ti.kəmˈpɛtətɪv// (adjective): that stops fair competition between companies
4. **noncommittal** //ˌnɒn.kəmɪtəl// (adjective): not giving a clear yes or no answer
5. **foreseeable** //fɔːˈsiːəbəl// (adjective): can be seen or expected in near future
6. **deficit** //ˈdɛfɪsɪt// (noun): when there is not enough of something



Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. Who is the CEO of United Airlines?
Option: Robert Isom
Option: Scott Kirby
Option: Donald Trump
Option: American Airlines
2. What was the primary reason for Kirby's proposed merger with American Airlines?
Option: To increase profits
Option: To enhance services for customers
Option: To eliminate competition
Option: To expand internationally
3. What did American Airlines' CEO state about the merger?
Option: It would benefit customers
Option: It would create a monopoly
Option: It is under consideration
Option: It would harm customers
4. Which airline did President Trump suggest might need government assistance?
Option: United Airlines
Option: Delta Airlines
Option: American Airlines
Option: Spirit Airlines
5. What does Kirby believe a combined United and American could improve?
Option: Innovation
Option: Customer service
Option: Competition against foreign airlines
Option: Airfare pricing
6. When did Kirby reach out to American Airlines regarding the merger?
Option: Last week



- Option: Earlier this year
- Option: Three months ago
- Option: In 2022

True-False

- 7. Scott Kirby received a positive response from American Airlines regarding the merger.
- 8. Robert Isom is in favor of the merger proposed by Scott Kirby.
- 9. President Trump publicly supported the merger discussion between United and American Airlines.
- 10. Kirby believes that merging with American Airlines could lead to better competition against foreign airlines.
- 11. American Airlines' response to the merger was definitive and firm.
- 12. The potential merger is still being actively discussed by both airlines.

Gap-Fill

- 13. United Airlines CEO Scott Kirby proposed a merger with American Airlines, which was promptly rejected by American's CEO _____.
- 14. Kirby expressed optimism that a merger could secure _____ approval.
- 15. Robert Isom claimed that merging the airlines would create an _____ situation.
- 16. Kirby noted the current deficit the United States faces in competition with _____ airlines.
- 17. Trump suggested he would support assistance for the underperforming budget airline _____.



18. Kirby mentioned that American's public rejection indicated the merger was _____
for the foreseeable future.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Scott Kirby 2. To enhance services for customers 3. It would harm customers 4. Spirit Airlines 5. Competition against foreign airlines 6. Earlier this year

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. False 10. True 11. True 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. Robert Isom 14. regulatory 15. anticompetitive 16. foreign 17. Spirit 18. off the table

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What is a common reason for companies to pursue a merger?

Option: To reduce competition

Option: To increase regulatory scrutiny

Option: To weaken market position

Option: To incur losses

2. Which body is usually responsible for enforcing regulatory compliance?

Option: The stock market

Option: Government agencies

Option: Business owners

Option: Shareholders

3. Which practice is typically seen as anticompetitive?

Option: Promotional discounts

Option: Collusion between firms

Option: Product differentiation

Option: Market segmentation

4. How would you describe someone who is noncommittal?

Option: Very decisive

Option: Indecisive or ambivalent

Option: Highly persuasive

Option: Informed and knowledgeable



5. What term describes events that can be predicted based on current evidence?

- Option: Random
- Option: Unlikely
- Option: Foreseeable
- Option: Improbable

6. What does a budget deficit indicate?

- Option: Excess income
- Option: Balanced budget
- Option: Shortfall in income
- Option: Surplus funding

7. What is the purpose of a forecasted budget?

- Option: To reflect historical data
- Option: To plan for future expenses
- Option: To reduce current spending
- Option: To evaluate past performance

8. What does it mean to cease operations?

- Option: To expand the business
- Option: To stop all business activities
- Option: To hire more staff
- Option: To increase production

9. Which areas are often considered vulnerable in economic terms?

- Option: Fortified markets
- Option: Stable industries
- Option: Emerging markets
- Option: Booming sectors

10. What happens when resources are depleted?

- Option: They are conserved
- Option: They are overused
- Option: They are invested
- Option: They are regenerated

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. The merger faced several _____ that delayed its approval.

12. She received a _____ award for her contributions to science.



13. The findings of the study were _____ in a comprehensive report.
14. The company has _____ strong relationships with its clients over the years.
15. Many _____ rely on public transportation for their daily travels.
16. Her _____ as a professor lasted over two decades.
17. The city experienced a _____ in tourism after the new attractions opened.
18. The new software has a _____ set of features catering to various users.
19. Stock prices have _____ since the announcement of the merger.
20. She is considered a strong _____ for the position of CEO.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. Investors often use hedges to protect themselves against market volatility.
22. The conference addressed several geopolitical issues affecting international trade.
23. There was a noticeable uptick in online sales during the holiday season.
24. Studies show that high stress levels can correlate with poor health outcomes.
25. The company's performance this quarter is expected to surpass previous records.
26. The two nations reached a ceasefire agreement after months of conflict.
27. Economic analysts released a forecast predicting growth in the upcoming year.
28. Community resilience is crucial in recovering from natural disasters.
29. The rapid innovation in technology continues to outpace regulations.
30. The budget deficit has raised concerns among policymakers.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. To reduce competition 2. Government agencies 3. Collusion between firms 4. Indecisive or ambivalent



5. Foreseeable 6. Shortfall in income 7. To plan for future expenses 8. To stop all business activities
9. Emerging markets 10. They are overused

Gap-Fill: 11. complications 12. distinguished 13. embodied 14. cultivated 15. commuters 16. tenure
17. resurgence 18. robust 19. surged 20. contender

Matching sentence: 1. hedges 2. geopolitical 3. uptick 4. correlate 5. surpass 6. ceasefire 7. forecast
8. resilience 9. outpace 10. deficit

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL6

POST TAG

1. American Airlines
2. ESL learning
3. esl news
4. Level 6
5. merger
6. united airlines

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