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Press Release

## **Soneva Group Announces Strategic Leadership Appointments and New Dubai Headquarters**



**Dubai, September 23, 2025** –Soneva Group, a leader in ultra luxury hospitality, has announced the appointment of three senior executives to its leadership team. Joanna Flint has been appointed as Chief Commercial Officer, Chris Whitehouse as Chief Financial Officer and Abhishek Sharma has been promoted to Chief Operating Officer effective September 2025.

**Joanna Flint** brings over 20 years of leadership experience in the luxury hospitality and technology sectors, including notable tenures at Mandarin Oriental, Google and Singapore Airlines. Her expertise in global commercial strategy will enhance Soneva's presence in existing and new markets by accelerating its sales, data, digital and go-to-market capabilities, whilst further elevating the brand and customer experience.

**Chris Whitehouse** joins as Chief Financial Officer with deep experience in financial strategy, risk, corporate financing, and asset management, gained from The Dot Group, Candy & Candy, and CPC; renowned names in luxury real estate development and large-scale student accommodation. He will be pivotal in strengthening Soneva's financial foundations and supporting its sustainable expansion.

Further strengthening its leadership team, Soneva is delighted to announce the promotion of **Abhishek Sharma** to the position of Chief Operating Officer. With over 25 years of experience in luxury hospitality across the Maldives, India, Egypt, and



Mauritius, Abhishek brings a wealth of global expertise to the position. In his role as Group General Manager, he has successfully overseen all three Soneva resorts, consistently championing service excellence and crafting extraordinary guest experiences defined by attention to detail.

These appointments accompany the landmark opening of Soneva's global headquarters in Dubai. Located at the crossroads of East and West, Dubai will enable Soneva to deepen relationships with industry partners, attract world-class talent, and connect with feeder markets.

*"We are delighted to welcome Joanna and Chris to the Soneva family and to announce Abhishek's promotion," said Neil Gallagher, CEO of Soneva Group. "Their extensive global experience will be invaluable as we unlock the potential for the Group while maintaining our unwavering commitment to Soneva's brand values, sustainability and culture. The launch of our new global headquarters in Dubai is another significant milestone, placing us at the crossroads of global markets and allowing us to expand our reach and drive sustained, long-term value for the Group."*

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### **About Soneva Group**

Soneva is an award-winning operator of barefoot resorts, where true luxury is defined by peace, time and space. Its collection includes Soneva Fushi, Soneva Jani, Soneva Secret and Soneva in Aqua in the Maldives, each set in some of the world's most breathtaking locations. Designed for rare seclusion, Soneva's spacious private villas, intuitive hospitality and inspiring experiences redefine luxury. Guests can indulge in treetop dining, overwater wellness, Michelin-starred cuisine and private yacht voyages, while the Soneva Stars calendar brings world-renowned visionaries for inspiring encounters.

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