

## **Sangster International Airport (MBJ) – *World-class gateway to the Caribbean***

The management and operation of Sangster International Airport, in Montego Bay, Jamaica, was transferred to MBJ Airports Limited in April 2003, under a 30 year Concession Agreement with the Government of Jamaica. MBJ Airports Limited is a special purpose company made up of two international partners.

The MBJ Airport vision is *to transform Sangster International Airport into a world-class gateway in the Caribbean that is an emblem of pride to Jamaica*. A vision already realized with Sangster International Airport winning numerous awards in the four years that MBJ Airports Limited has taken over the international airport. Including the Caribbean's Leading Airport of the year for 2005, presented by World Travel Awards.

Sangster International Airport is currently served by 54 airlines – 32 Charter and 22 Scheduled carriers – providing service to 69 international cities in 3 continents. More than 300 passenger flights depart MBJ weekly – 220 to North America, 24 to Europe and 59 to Caribbean and South American destinations.

MBJ is being re-developed and expanded to make it a New Airport for the New Millennium. The five year, US\$160 million project, will be completed in 2008 and consists of two construction phases.

The first major phase of development was completed ahead of schedule in December, 2005. A modernization project was undertaken and seven jet bridges were added to the existing terminal building. A new terminal building was also constructed and opened. Overlooking the Caribbean Sea, the new 16,500 square meter East Concourse has eleven jet bridges and the capability to handle all types of commercial aircraft including B747's.

As part of the phase one expansion project at Sangster International Airport, MBJ Airports Limited developed an innovative Retail Plan. The plan is to ensure that airport users gain maximum benefit from the new retail space that was re-developed in the existing terminal and developed in the new East Concourse. 1,200 square meters of commercial space was added to the new Concourse which houses three Duty Free shops, five specialty retail outlets, three Food and Beverage outlets and 2 Service retail units. Renowned national brand names include the Jamaican Bobsled Cafe, Red Strip Bar and Kidz Cool Gear.

The Retail Precinct and all the outlets were designed and decorated to foster a distinct Jamaican "Sense of Place". It is a perfect example of a world class building with outlets boasting designs that add a unique Caribbean flare. MBJ

Airports Limited has created an exciting and memorable shopping experience for visitors to Jamaica.

To attract and accommodate the demand for high end tourism and corporate travel, a full service private jet centre has been constructed and opened by International Aircraft Management Inc (IAM). Known as a Fixed Base Operator (FBO), IAM has been providing VIP services to visiting private and corporate jets since 1989. The IAM Caribbean network covers some 45 airports in the region.

The IAM Jet Centre – Montego Bay offers 420 square meters of well appointed features designed to meet the special needs and expectations of discerning passengers and their flight crew. Features include dedicated in-house Customs and Immigration processing, first class lounge accommodations, a private meeting room, high speed internet service and covered access to ground transportation. The facility is discretely separated from the main terminal buildings and has a separate roadway linking the jet centre to the main highway.

Phase two began in January 2006 with the construction of a new Ground Transportation Arrivals Hall (GTAH). Opened in February, 2007, the new 2,500 square meters facility features 8 meter high ceilings in the Customs Hall and ground Transportation areas. The two storeys Ground Transportation Hall includes airline and airport offices on the mezzanine floor. Customs, rental cars, baggage delivery systems, food and beverage outlets, retail service units, lounges, tour and ground operators are located on the ground floor. The new building was designed to make travel through the airport as convenient as possible and to exceed the expectations of travelers and airline customers, by offering a warm Jamaican welcome.

One of the distinct features unique to Sangster International Airport are hotel arrivals lounges; Sandals Resorts, Superclubs, Ritz Carlton, Dolphin Cove, Sunset Beach Resorts, Half Moon and Couples Resorts provide luxurious arrival lounge facilities to make that all important first impression.

Further development included in phase two will see redevelopment and expansion of roadways, an new domestic terminal incorporated into the main building, additional check-in facilities and lobby, expanded inbound and outbound Immigration, more security check points, new outbound baggage security and delivery systems, full CUTE systems and a range of customer service features such as airline first class lounges.

An additional 4,500 square meters of commercial space will be added which will house ten Duty Free shops, thirteen Specialty Retail shops, twelve Food and Beverage outlets and four Service Retail units. Tenants include national and international brands such as Air Margaritaville, Harley Davidson Motorcycles and Havaianas. Provision has also been made for a large Duty Free “on arrivals”

facility and a gaming smoking lounge. Ample space for an art and advertising program will re-enforce a Jamaican “sense of place” throughout the buildings.

The combined development with 65 retail units covering an area of almost 6,000 square meters, will allow Sangster International Airport to continue to promote the “MBJ Airport Shopping Mall”, as the largest shopping centre in Jamaica. Shopping at Sangster International Airport is an integral part of the Jamaican “Vacation Experience” and a vital part of the Island’s travel product.

MBJ welcomed over 3,300,000 airport customers in 2006. Approximately 95% of all passengers that use MBJ are vacationers. When completed in 2008, the size of the airport will have tripled and up to nine million passengers per year will be able to enjoy the advantages of Sangster International Airport.

MBJ is ideally located on the northwest coast of the Island – at the centre of the country’s main tourism region and close to a wide range of hotel and resort facilities. The island main tourist region is currently served by major hotel properties, including the offering of all-inclusive packages. The island’s hotel industry and their international partners will develop over 8,500 additional hotel rooms in the MBJ catchment area over the next three years. The airport is within easy driving distance of the cruiseports of Montego Bay and Ocho Rios, and the popular tourist town of Negril.

Agreement has also been reached with the cruise-line industry to expand facilities at the Port of Montego Bay. The Port hosted 181 cruise-liners in 2005, carrying 326,964 passengers. MBJ Airports Limited works hand in hand with ground-handlers, tour operators and cruise-lines to offer fast, seamless air sea transfer services that expedite arrival and departure formalities.

Sangster International Airport is one the fastest growing airports in the Caribbean, registering more than 13% growth in 2006. With a focus on providing quality service to travellers and airlines, creating world class facilities with a unique Jamaican “sense of place” and being the ideal hub for the Caribbean, MBJ Airports Limited is well prepared and positioned for continuing this trend in the new millennium.