

February 17, 2006, Montego Bay, Jamaica – Construction has begun on Phase two of the Sangster International Airport terminal expansion program.

The Honorable Robert Pickersgill, Minister of Transport and Works, Mr. Dennis Morrison, Chairman of the Airports Authority of Jamaica and Mr. Jorge Sales, Chief Executive Office of MBJ Airports Limited, presided over the Phase two ground breaking ceremony.

Phase one of the expansions started in April, 2003 when MBJ Airports Limited (MBJ) was established for the purpose of operating, maintaining and expanding the Sangster International Airport, under a thirty year Concession License with the Government of Jamaica. MBJ is a consortium consisting of Dragados Concesiones De Infraestructuras S.A. (Dragados) from Spain, Agencias Universales S.A. (Agunsa) from Chile, the Ashtrom Group Limited (Ashtrom) from Israel and Vancouver Airport Services (YVRAS) from Canada.

Phase one was completed five weeks ahead of schedule and within budget.

The Honorable Robert Pickersgill opened the Phase two ceremonies by saying “Today marks another chapter in the success story that is Sangster International Airport and I am very happy to be once again associated with this chapter. The whole of Jamaica and indeed the wider world is still basking in the first world concourse that was opened right here in December of last year. And to continue on that path, we are here to break ground for the construction of Phase two of the Sangster International Airport. The scheduled start of Phase two was January 11 of this year based on agreement between the Airports Authority of Jamaica and MBJ Airports Limited”.

The US\$51M Phase Two of the airport expansion incorporates building a new structure and renovations to the existing terminal building, including:

- A new Ground Transportation Hall for arriving passengers,
- New, expanded arriving and departing Immigration screening facilities,
- New, expanded baggage retrieval and Customs screening facilities,
- New Retail/commercial area,
- Complete renovation and expansion of the Ticketing Hall, including improved baggage screening facilities and check-in facilities,
- Complete renovation of the old departures hall (gates 1-6),
- Relocation of the Domestic arrivals/departures facilities into the main terminal building,
- Improved parking and drop-off/pick-up areas.

The entire construction and renovation program is to be completed by July, 2008.

“Phase one of the work saw the opening of a new East Concourse. The new facility provides our airline customers with 11 new boarding gates including facilities for six wide bodied aircraft” said Jorge Sales. He added “Our airport customers will be pleased with our new 13 new retail and restaurant outlets as well as the expanse and added comfort offered by the new Concourse and boarding gates areas”.

Mr. Sales added “Phase two will add almost 4,475 m2 of retail commercial space, accommodating an additional 39 retail, food and beverage and service outlets. The new structure and redevelopment of the existing buildings will be able to handle more than 9.0 million passengers per year” He continued “MBJ Airports Limited has demonstrated leadership in implementing safe, friendly, clean and efficient programs to develop and operate Sangster International Airport in a manner which reflects Jamaican culture and hospitality. We will continue to work towards our vision to operate a world class facility in the Caribbean that is an emblem of pride to Jamaica”.

During the ceremonies, Dennis Morrison commented “through government and airport marketing efforts, over the past several months we have attracted five new airlines to fly into Sangster International Airport and have seen 17 Airlines increase schedules on a year over year basis. This rapid increase in air services may not have been possible without the airport expansion program”.

After breaking down and laying the first foundation stone, Minister Pickergill summed up by saying “the government and people of Jamaica are really very excited by this project. After all, this is one of the portals to the rest of the world and we know that there are untold positives associated with the successful completion of this project. Tourism alone with its many linkages makes this project as necessary to Jamaica as oxygen is to the sustenance of life. The social, economic and cultural landscape of the island will definitely receive a boost when this airport joins the ranks of first class facilities – we already know that brand Jamaica is very potent, this is one more reason to make it even more so”.

“Every investor looks forward to returns on their investments, and a lot is riding on this investment in Montego Bay – I am quite sure that there will be bountiful returns for all concerned as all stakeholders work in unison for a safe, customer friendly and efficient airport”

For further information contact David Solloway at dsolloway@mbjairport.com