

# Airport report

## Reaching Milestones for a World Class Airport

**By Iftikhar Ahmad**  
Director of Aviation

Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport has achieved some significant milestones in the first quarter of 2014. First and foremost, forward progress on the development of the new \$826 million North Terminal has taken flight. On January 16, 2014, New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu joined the New Orleans Aviation Board (NOAB) and the Long Term Infrastructure Development Project Team to showcase the conceptual renderings of the new north terminal complex. The terminal concepts are the creation of world renowned architect Cesar Pelli, New Orleans' William Raymond Manning of Manning Architects, Atkins Global and Leo A. Daly, the project design team for the north terminal project. The new "World Class" north terminal conceptual renderings and terminal animation can be viewed on our website, [www.flymsy.com](http://www.flymsy.com).

Prior to this announcement, on December 30, 2013, another major milestone paved the way for the terminal project to move forward. On this date, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a Finding of No Significant Impact/Record of Decision (FONSI/ROD) for the Environmental Assessment completed in connection with the proposed north relocation of the terminal complex at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport. The FONSI/ROD is based on the findings and determinations contained in the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) completed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Next to come will be the funding of the project. Funding sources may include Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement Program (FAA AIP) grants, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) grants, Louisiana State Aviation Trust Fund grants, Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) collections, General Airport Revenue Bonds, Aviation Board Capital Funds with no investment by the City of New Orleans.

The building of the new terminal will create over 13,000 jobs in construction and numerous business opportunities for local and Louisiana businesses. On February 17, 2014, Mayor Landrieu was again joined by the Aviation Board as well as members of the project team at a special Business Opportunity outreach event that outlined the project components and its business potentials for hopefully numerous firms in the region. The NOAB would like to see local Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) also participate in the terminal construction. All projects, contracts or service agreements entered with the NOAB require that there be a certain percentage of DBE participation. The soon to be released solicitation announcements for the project will follow the regular Federal, State and City guidelines required for posting solicitations for bids. Any and all questions concerning contracts, service agreements or open solicitations should always be sent to our procurement office at [procurement@flymsy.com](mailto:procurement@flymsy.com).

The decision to build a new terminal was a strategic business move

to further improve the economic value of the airport to our communities. It is not a project in response to outgrowing the existing terminal and needing more space neither is it a decision based in aesthetics, it is the result however of a strategy to increase non-airline revenue, decrease airline costs and gain more air service as a result so that our community would be more connected through air service with the rest of the world. Better connectivity through air service has brought significant economic development to cities like Atlanta, Chicago and Houston and we wish the same for our region.

In air service news, we were pleased to announce a new non-stop international destination, which is the third international destination announced in the past three years. Inaugural non-stop seasonal flights will begin May 17, 2014 to Montego Bay, Jamaica. Travellers can book their reservations on [www.vacationexpress.com](http://www.vacationexpress.com), which is operating the flight and is one of the largest tour operators in the southeast United States with over 22 years' experience in the charter business. The Jamaican service will include a six night stay that departs on Saturdays with an early morning departure and a late afternoon return, hopefully giving vacationers more beach time on the first and last night of the vacation. The new air service to this popular Caribbean destination will be aboard a Miami Air B737-700 aircraft that has a seating capacity of 150 passengers (8 first class and 142 coach seats). Last summer, [vacationexpress.com](http://vacationexpress.com) successfully offered a non-stop flight from New Orleans to Cancun, Mexico. They were so pleased with the response that they are resuming the flight option with an increased frequency of twice weekly flights.

Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport is a critical asset for the City of New Orleans, the state and the region. It currently carries approximately 80% of the state's enplanements, provides over 12,450 direct and indirect jobs for the community and facilitates over \$2.6 billion in tourism spending. In 2013, the Airport welcomed over 9 million passengers through its doors, while continuing to serve as an important gateway to the New Orleans market and the Gulf South Region. As we move forward in the year, the NOAB looks forward to reaching additional milestones of progress in its quest to provide a world class airport for our community. ✈



*Iftikhar Ahmad, Director of Aviation for Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport may be reached at [director@flymsy.com](mailto:director@flymsy.com). You can follow the airport on Facebook at [facebook.com/MSYAirport](https://www.facebook.com/MSYAirport) and Twitter @NO\_Airport. Also, view "Airport Alive" on the airport website, [www.flymsy.com](http://www.flymsy.com).*

**Want to be a volunteer at the airport? To find out how, click on Ambassador on the airport website.**