



Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport to Accept \$440,000 Grant Offer to Prepare Airport Geographical Information System

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 16, 2009 (New Orleans, LA) Today, the New Orleans Aviation Board will accept a \$440,000 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Grant Offer for the preparation of Airport Geographical Information System (A-GIS).

Armstrong Airport has been selected by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to develop and implement an Airport Geographic Information System (AGIS), a software system for airport owners, operators, contractors, consultants, state and federal officials to keep track of airport documents and drawings that guide development and control of the airport environment.

Previous methods relied on physical drawings and multiple revisions to fully document property lines, aeronautical obstructions and future infrastructure plans. Often the process was so cumbersome that needed improvements were delayed.

This new method, which the FAA has selected the Airport to help develop, is similar to popular mapping software that allows for maps to have different data sets - near-by restaurants, hotels, etc. - associated with digital maps. With an AGIS system, much more data is available, compiled from consultants, contractors, surveyors and other professionals that build and maintain the Airport. As new construction is erected, the database of the AGIS is updated.

When complete, the system will have catalogued much of the scattered information needed to plan and develop the Airport, to permit new construction, record existing structures and roads, to notify pilots of obstructions, to advise officials of future plans. All this will be available at a few keystrokes.

The Airport will work with the FAA and a specialized consultant to assemble all of the data, from existing sources and new surveys. The means and methods will be developed as part of the work and ultimately guide the FAA's policies and procedures for building these systems throughout the country.

"We are proud that our Airport has been selected for this pilot study. We believe that opportunities for partnership with agencies such as the FAA can only improve the service we provide to our region, the communities we live in and the travelers we serve," stated Dan Packer, Chairman of the Aviation Board.

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