



## **Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport to Break Ground on New Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Station**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – November 2, 2009 (New Orleans, LA) The New Orleans Aviation Board will break ground on a new Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) Station today at 1:00 p.m.

The current firehouse was built in 1959 and was expanded in 1987 to meet the demands at the time. Over the years, the specially designed fire trucks used by airports have evolved and the current firehouse can no longer house the new equipment. These new vehicles, costing nearly \$1 million each, are longer and wider than the trucks of years past, therefore requiring larger bays.

Furthermore, firemen involved in ARFF firefighting are under stringent FAA guidelines to meet training requirements. Our Airport Firefighters train continuously. Currently, there is no training facility and the training must take place in the kitchen, the only room large enough to hold a class. The new ARFF station will have a multipurpose training room which can also be used for meetings or during incidents. It will also provide room enough to offer mutual aid training to the surrounding local fire departments to better train for incidents that would require activation of our mutual aid agreement.

The architect and engineering firms on this project are Hegedus-ECM Architects and Engineers, a joint venture of Imre Hegedus & Associated Architects and ECM Consultants of New Orleans. The Construction Firm is Satterfield & Pontikes of Kenner.

Satterfield and Pontikes was award the contract with a bid of \$9,913,000. The project, part of the \$350 Million Capital Improvement Program underway at Armstrong International Airport, will be funded 100% by Passenger Facility Charges (PFC) collected at the Airport.

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