



## **New General Aviation Inspection Facility Seen as Airport Game-Changer**

San Antonio, TX (November 13, 2014) – City Council approves GA/FIS

With the City Council approval of the General Aviation Federal Inspection Station (GA/FIS), the San Antonio International Airport (SAT) will break ground before the new year on a facility that has been described as a “game changer” for the airport. Scheduled for completion by the end of 2015, the new GA/FIS addresses two issues related to international general aviation; the need to separate commercial and general aviation aircraft and the need to improve the general aviation passenger’s customer experience when clearing customs. With design already near completion, STI anticipates that construction will begin in December or January, with completion planned for the end of calendar year 2015.

“The new inspection facility for international general aviation takes our airport’s commitment to customer service to the next level,” says Mayor Ivy Taylor, “And, from an economic development perspective, the new facility is an asset for San Antonio.”

Last year, SAT processed more than 30,000 international general aviation arriving passengers and over 6,000 general aviation aircraft through a temporary customs area in Terminal A. “This project aligns with the airport’s priority to provide all of our customers with the very best possible experience, while supporting the city’s goals for economic and business development” says Aviation Director Frank R. Miller.

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### **Our Mission:**

To innovatively manage our airports to provide a positive customer experience while supporting economic development.

In an effort to expedite construction of the new 5,000 square foot facility across the airfield from commercial operations, the City negotiated a public/private partnership with Smart Traveling, Inc. (STI), who will invest more than \$2 million to design and build the facility. The City's Aviation Department will construct the access taxiway and ramp area in front of the facility, which is located on the north side of the airfield and, street side, on Skyplace Blvd., off Nakoma. Calling the facility a "game changer" for SAT, Smart Traveling President and CEO Pablo Hoyos, says "I am honored to be working with the City on this innovative mixed-use aviation complex that will enhance corporate and private aviation and support economic development for our city."

A Mexican-owned business, STI has been a tenant at San Antonio International Airport since 2011, when it opened Skyplace, a Fixed Base Operator (FBO). With additional acreage next to the FBO, STI plans to develop the property to provide not only continuing FBO activities, but also to promote general aviation executive hangar space with individual passenger suites and solicit business opportunities such as Maintenance Repair and Overhaul (MRO) business. The business plan for STI includes an investment of \$40 million in the leased premises; \$19 million to be invested by 2022 and an additional \$21 million by 2030. Under the financial terms of the lease, the Aviation Department will receive nearly \$45 million in rent by the end of the lease term in 2051.

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