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### **Strong RFQ Response for Puerto Rico's PPP Airport Project**

*Twelve world-class consortia submitted responses to the RFQ to acquire a concession to finance, operate, maintain and improve the Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport*

SAN JUAN, PR – The Puerto Rico Public-Private Partnerships Authority (PPPA), together with the Puerto Rico Ports Authority (PRPA), received twelve (12) responses to the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to acquire a concession to finance, operate, maintain and improve the Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport (Airport). This is the busiest airport in the Caribbean and a participant in the FAA Pilot Program.

The PPPA and the PRPA are seeking to achieve their primary objectives of: 1) maximizing the upfront value for the Airport, 2) improving the Airport's safety standards, service levels and quality, 3) maintaining and improving the quality of service to travelers as well as achieving a higher level of customer satisfaction, and 4) creating a world-class gateway to Puerto Rico while increasing the Island's profile as a destination in the Caribbean, in order to positively impact the development of the tourism industry and overall economic prospects in Puerto Rico.

The PPPA issued the RFQ on July 5, 2011, and its deadline was August 8, 2011, at 5:00 pm (AST). Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) were filed by the following consortia, which are listed in the order in which they were received:

- **Fraport AG and Goldman Sachs Infrastructure Partners;**
- **GMR Infrastructure and Incheon International Airport Corporation;**
- **AENA Internacional;**
- **Puerto Rico Gateway Group** (GE Capital Aviation, Allegheny County Airport Authority, TIAA-CREF, OpTrust, Airmall USA)

- **TAV Airports Holdings;**
- **Grupo Aeropuertos Avance (GAA)** (Macquarie and *Ferrovial Aeropuertos*);
- **AGUNSA** (*Agencias Universales S.A*);
- **Flughafen Zürich AG, Public Sector Pension Investment Board (PSP), Camargo Corrêa Investimento em Infra-Estrutura and Gestión e Ingeniería IDC;**
- **Grupo Aeroportuario del Sureste (ASUR) and Highstar Capital;**
- **Grupo Aeroportuario del Centro Norte (OMA);**
- **Corporación América S.A.;** and
- **Advent International Corporation (Advent).**

PPPA Executive Director, David Álvarez expressed his satisfaction with both the number and the quality of the consortia interested in qualifying for this project, and what this interest represents for the future development of Puerto Rico. “We are very excited about the strong response that we received. Furthermore, we are very encouraged by the high caliber of the participants, which is a clear indication of the great opportunity Puerto Rico has to deliver a world class airport for its people and for visitors to our Island,” Álvarez said.

According to Álvarez, the PPPA will conduct a rigorous, transparent and diligent procurement process to ensure that Puerto Rico arrives at the best possible transaction and infrastructure project. “The PPPA and PRPA are entirely focused on delivering a world class airport, through a transaction that people will understand as good business, and on making sure that prospective proponents and lenders will be comfortable with, and certain of returns on their investment. Our objective is to conduct a highly professional process that will result in a historical transaction for the Government, the private sector and the US market. We will have to work hard but I am sure that we will get there.”

Puerto Rico Ports Authority Executive Director, Alberto Escudero, said that “the modernization of our main airport is a commitment that we cannot continue to leave unattended. The response to the RFQ is evidence that we certainly can achieve that goal, which will result in a better quality of life for all the residents of Puerto Rico and better services for travelers,” he stressed.

Today, the PPPA, together with the PRPA, and the Partnership Committee appointed for the project begin a process of analysis of the SOQs in order to arrive at a shortlist of proponents that eventually will be invited to submit Request for Proposals of the project. Said process is estimated to take a few weeks and should end during the month of August or early September (if needed).

The PPPA has established a website, [www.p3.gov.pr](http://www.p3.gov.pr), which contains all the information about this and other PPP projects in Puerto Rico.

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