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PRESS RELEASE

CIAA SIGNS WITH DSS CONTRACTOR FOR ENABLING WORKS AT BRAC AIRPORT

The Cayman Islands Airports Authority (CIAA) announced in March 2012 that the terminal facilities at the Charles Kirkconnell International Airport (formerly Gerrard-Smith International Airport) would undergo an expansion commencing later this year to accommodate nonstop outgoing international flights between Cayman Brac, the USA and elsewhere. A groundbreaking ceremony for the expansion was held in July and the Premier, Honourable McKeever Bush, OBE, JP, during his keynote address, also announced the renaming of the terminal in honour of the late Captain Charles Leonard Kirkconnell, OBE, JP.

As part of the preparations for the expansion, on Friday, 21st September, the CIAA signed a contract with DSS Contractors, a Brac construction firm, to carry out the enabling works which are necessary to facilitate the planned improvements to the terminal, subject to requisite planning approvals.

Following a departmental tender process which commenced in August, DSS Contractors, was selected to carry out the enabling works which include relocation of sewage facilities, construction of a temporary outdoor baggage area and creation of a temporary interior baggage corridor and demolition of the existing exterior baggage area. It is expected that the main terminal expansion works will commence by the end of the year.

The CIAA's Project Manager, Nicholas Johnson, is working in conjunction with Donal McGrath of BDCL Architects on the primary design and planning phases. Mr. Johnson confirmed that the terminal will remain operational during all aspects of the expansion and efforts will be made to minimize interruption to passenger processing as the building is extended to the east.

"The project will accommodate a larger Ticketing Hall, enhanced Passenger Screening and Hold Baggage Screening facilities and the addition of outgoing Immigration counters. The Departure Lounge will also be expanded to create additional retail space and a larger restaurant. Office space is also being created for Cayman Airways as well as the airport's Security unit and a VIP lounge.



Acknowledging the progress being made on the project, Premier McKeeva Bush, said, “This is an important milestone in furthering the development of the tourism industry in Cayman Brac. If we are to see the island’s tourism industry grow, then improved airport facilities are an essential element. The plans that have been laid for the Charles Kirkconnell International Airport are excellent, and as Premier and Minister responsible for airports I am extremely happy that this initiative by my government is now underway.”

Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for District Administration, Works, Lands and Agriculture (DAWL&A) the Honourable Juliana O’Connor-Connolly, said she was pleased to see the progress that the Airports Authority has made to date and looks forward to an early completion of the project.

“The contract signing is another positive step in the extension of the Charles Kirkconnell International Airport which brings Cayman Brac up to international standards and increases the Islands’ ability to attract a new tourist base, which will help to stimulate our economy,” she remarked.

CIAA’s CEO, Mr. Jeremy Jackson, said he is pleased that works are getting underway and he looks forward to the conclusion of the expansion project next summer. “The expansion is being funded by the Cayman Islands Airports Authority and will undoubtedly provide a much-needed boost to the continued economic development of Cayman Brac.”

End

Photo Caption:

Sitting, L-R: Larry Bryan, CIAA’s Director; Denver Solomon, owner of DSS Contractors; Hon Juliana O’Connor-Connolly, Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for DAWL&A; Jeremy Jackson, CIAA’s CEO; Stran Bodden, Chief Officer, Ministry of Tourism, Finance and Development.

Standing, L-R: Rohendis Britton, CIAA’s Senior Manager Airport Operations, (CKIA); Mark Tibbetts, Deputy District Commissioner; Ernie Scott, District Commissioner; Jonathon Jackson, Deputy Chief Officer, Ministry of DAWL&A.

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