



PRESS RELEASE

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SOUTHWEST FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

FORT MYERS, Fla. (May 12, 2008) – May 14, 2008, marks the 25th year of operations at Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW). The airport opened on May 14, 1983, and Delta Air Lines #1677 was the first flight to land at the brand new Southwest Florida Regional Airport. Ten years later, the airport was renamed Southwest Florida International Airport, to reflect its emerging global status.

Due to dynamic growth in the region and at the airport, the Lee County Port Authority started planning and designing a brand new facility in 1998. This project broke ground in February 2002 and the state-of-the-art facility opened on Sept. 9, 2005, as one of the newest terminals in the nation.

Southwest Florida International Airport has served nearly 110 million passengers during the last 25 years, surpassing all expectations from its modest 1983 beginnings. In 1984, the first full year of operations, the airport served 1 million passengers for the entire year. In March 2008, more than 1 million passengers traveled through the airport in a single month!

The airport enjoys service from major and low-fare airline partners and has had nonstop trans-Atlantic flights for 14 years. More than 20 air carriers serve the airport with nonstop service to 39 destinations, including Düsseldorf and Munich, Germany and Toronto, Canada, with endless connection possibilities from some of the largest hubs in the world.

Southwest Florida International Airport generates a regional economic impact of more than \$3.6 billion and is run entirely on revenue generated from its operations. No ad valorem (property) taxes support its operations or construction.

“Airports are economic engines. Southwest Florida International Airport has definitely made a lasting impression on our passengers and has made a significant contribution to the overall social and economic well-being of the region we serve,” said Robert M. Ball, A.A.E., executive director of the Lee County Port Authority. “The airport’s success can be attributed to its location in one of the nation’s most desirable destinations and we are proud to share our pristine environment, award-winning beaches and unparalleled natural beauty with visitors from all over the world.”

In 2007, more than 8 million passengers traveled through Southwest Florida International Airport, making it one of the 50 busiest airports in the nation. For more information, please visit the airport’s Web site at www.flylcpa.com.