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PUERTO RICO PROMOTES ITS AVIATION NETWORK SYSTEM IN OSHKOSH 2016

The world's largest aviation celebration

(Isla Grande, Puerto Rico) – The Puerto Rico Ports Authority (PRPA) alongside the Puerto Rico Tourism Company are joining efforts to promote the Fly-inn experience through all nine regional airports around the Island in the world's largest aviation celebration *EAA Air Venture: OSHKOSH 2016*, in Wisconsin.

At the event of the Association of Experimental Aircraft (EAA), the PRPA promotes the *Puerto Rico Private Aviation Guide*, document targeted to promote this public corporation airport facilities, as well as the most relevant operational and tariff data for pilots who want to fly to the island. This Guide was designed as part of the Regional Airports Development Plan.

The document integrates the QR Codes, which address those interested to tourism and inns web sites, like *Puerto Rico Convention Center*, *Bahía Urbana* (waterfront park) or *Puerto Rico Coliseum* (world class arena for up to 18,000 spectators). Each of these sites provides information and promotional offers in their respective webpages.

“We have joined forces to attract, for the first time, the private aviation market to Puerto Rico. With this *Guide* Puerto Rico seeks to attract this business usually concentrated before in other Caribbean islands”, said Ingrid Colberg Rodríguez, Puerto Rico Ports Authority Executive Director.

In this way the airports in Puerto Rico have a new business scenario due to a strong commitment to identify, promote and provide greater opportunities for business. Although our facilities provide the infrastructure required for traditional operations, there is a lot more happening in our airports. For example, a nonstop transformation is occurring in José Aponte de la Torre Airport in Ceiba (RVR). Two aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) companies settled at this airport. In addition, RVR is base for laboratory tests of a technology giant (Google) to provide internet service to remote places as a social community project. This airport has now international presence at the aeronautical and tourism industry.

In the other hand, Rafael Hernandez International Airport in Aguadilla (BQN) incorporated non-traditional operations that continue to strengthen its global projection. It now claims the first Equine Emergency Quarantine Center located at an airport in the Caribbean, certified by the US Department of Agriculture. Also, with the arrival of *Lufthansa Technik* MRO, the western region became the hub for aeronautics in the country. The Aeronautical and Aerospace Institute of Puerto Rico was created in 2015 to guarantee continuity in the training of aviation mechanics. The Puerto Rico Aviation Maintenance Institute (PRAMI) offers training in Ceiba.

“One word defines the Puerto Rico experience: Diversity. The Puerto Rico Tourism Company continues to work closely with tourism industry partners in order to maximize the potential of the Island as a leisure and business destination”, added Ingrid I. Rivera Rocafort, Executive Director of the Puerto Rico Tourism Company. “Puerto Rico’s unique identity as a travel destination, and the island’s geographic locations make it not only the gateway to the Caribbean in terms of air and sea access, but also creates an incredible variety of locations and activities for visitors to enjoy during their visit.”

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