



## **St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport**

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### **St. Petersburg–Clearwater International Airport (PIE) hosts Chinese Aviation Delegation for Airport Tour and Safety Management Presentation**

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On July 19, 2012, a delegation of Chinese aviation officials will visit St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport to learn about the safety and security protocols that the airport uses during major construction projects. The delegation is comprised of 25 Chinese participants and 3 instructors. Their visit will include an airfield bus tour providing an overview of airfield construction safety and security requirements, and a walking tour of the airport terminal. Finally, airport officials will provide an overview of the airport's application of the Safety Management System (SMS) being implemented by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Media is invited to attend any part of the program. If interested in participating in the bus tour of the airfield, a limited number of bus seats are available, so please reserve a space in advance. Contact Michele Routh for more information about attending the program at (727)453-7879 or email [mrouth@pinellascounty.org](mailto:mrouth@pinellascounty.org). The full program is scheduled on Thursday, July 19<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:15 am until approximately 12:30 pm.

China is currently rapidly expanding their aviation infrastructure and seeking educational opportunities to aid with the development of safe and secure airports. Delegates from the Civil Aviation Authority China with assistance from the Civil Aviation Institute of China are in the Tampa Bay area to learn about successful SMS programs in the United States. ATC Vantage (ATCV) and Safety Operating Systems (SOS) are Aviation Safety companies located in St. Petersburg who are conducting a two week class for the Chinese delegation as internationally recognized experts in aviation safety, including SMS instruction, facilitation and onsite implementation of SMS for airlines, airports, and aircraft maintenance companies. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) requires that Air Carriers, aircraft maintenance, Air Traffic Control, and international airports in all countries implement a Safety Management System (SMS) to improve their company's overall effectiveness of their safety programs.

The program is being coordinated by Captain John M. Cox, MBA, FRAeS, Chief Executive Officer, Safety Operating Systems. Cox states, "St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport is a leader in effective safety management. The Chinese delegates will tour the airport to receive a briefing on lessons learned by St. Petersburg-Clearwater in implementing the safety management process. This information will help the Chinese delegates continue to improve aviation safety in China by seeing an actual implementation of the processes."

Airport Director Noah Lagos states, "We are honored that we have been picked to host the Chinese delegation to share how we safely manager major construction projects, particularly those that take place on the airfield during aircraft operations. St Petersburg-Clearwater Int'l has just completed its Federal Aviation Administration Certification Inspection and is proud to report its 8<sup>th</sup> year in a row of "No Discrepancies", which equates to the FAA finding PIE in excellent standing with regards to safety in the overall operation of the airport. Our stellar safety history makes us a good choice to share our expertise with the Chinese delegation."

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