



Media Release – June 20, 2013

St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport (PIE) Receives Excellent Annual Safety Review

St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport (PIE) passed its Annual Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Certification Inspection, marking its 9th consecutive year without a single discrepancy. Also notable is PIE's six consecutive years without a vehicle/pedestrian runway incursion or infraction.

The FAA issues Airport Operating Certificates to ensure safety in air transportation. An airport must agree to certain operational and safety standards and conducts inspections annually for compliance. The annual inspection reviews airport emergency planning, wildlife management, fueling operations, aircraft rescue and firefighting, employee training, runway and taxiway signage and pavement markings.

The FAA reviewed the inspection with airport officials on June 19th and the airport will receive a full written report in a few weeks. "The airport team has done an outstanding job ensuring that safety is our top priority and certainly has been recognized by the FAA over the last 9 years with findings of no discrepancies," states Airport Director Noah Lagos.

PIE's three runways, which are 9,730 feet, 5,900 feet, and 4,000 feet, and the taxiways are operated and maintained by the airport. The airport is a department of Pinellas County Government and the Airport Rescue Firefighting Station is operated as a division of the airport.

St. Pete-Clearwater International served over 865,000 passengers in 2012, a 4% increase over the prior year. May 2013 marked a 28% increase in monthly passengers over the prior May. Additionally, operations in general aviation increased, with year-to date operations up 13%.

Contact: Michele Routh, Airport Public Relations Director
mrouth@fly2pie.com 727-453-7879

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