



Media Release – July 11, 2014

## **St. Pete–Clearwater International Airport (PIE) Receives Excellent Annual Safety Review for 10<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Year**

St. Pete–Clearwater International Airport (PIE) passed its Annual Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Certification Inspection, marking its 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year without a single discrepancy.

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 July 10<sup>th</sup> and the airport will receive a full written report in a few weeks. “Safety is always our top priority at PIE and our airport team works together to achieve this goal 365 days a year. I am very proud of their outstanding work,” states Airport Director Noah Lagos.

PIE’s four runways, which are 9,730 feet, 5,900 feet, 4,712, 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 1,017,049 passengers in 2013, a 17% increase over the prior year. June 2014 marked a 6-month year-to-date increase of 23% over the prior year. Operations are diverse at PIE with over 80% general aviation operations; over 10% military operations, including the world’s busiest Coast Guard Air Station; cargo operations, and rising commercial air service.

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