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MEDIA RELEASE

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St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport (PIE) Awarded FAA Southern Region Air Carrier Safety Award

St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport is being awarded the 2016 Air Carrier Safety Award by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Southern Division. "...It is our honor to announce the winners... This program offers us the opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the hard work and success of our colleagues who have exhibited excellence in aviation safety," stated Steven Hicks, Director, Airports Division, Southern Region, FAA. The Southern Region includes 8 states, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands.

The FAA Southern Region Airports Division Safety Awards program allows the division to recognize air carrier airports that have taken actions, instituted programs, or otherwise operated in such a manner deserving of special recognition for improving airport safety. Selection criteria for the Air Carrier Airport Safety Award are based on the development or implementation of a specific program or activity, or other special and unique accomplishments, involving the operation of an air carrier airport that resulted in enhanced safety.

PIE has achieved 12 consecutive years of zero discrepancies on its annual FAA Part 139 Certification Inspection and received a Safety Mark of Distinction Award for its 2013 inspection. During 2016, PIE completed Taxiway Rehabilitation Project Phase I with notable safety enhancements including realignment of taxiway and runway connectors to meet newly issued standards, adding paved shoulders, and new guidance signs and pavement markings. The closure of a joint-use taxiway/runway and the de-coupling of intersecting runways were also safety enhancement modifications. Airport training and recordkeeping initiatives for enhanced safety included creating a custom airfield library resource of FAA Advisory Circulars, a new Airport Movement Area training program, and an enhanced fuel farm recordkeeping system.

Additionally, the airport's collaboration and communication with its tenants is a key element to its safety success. St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport Director Tom Jewsbury stated, "I am very proud of our team at PIE. During our rapid growth, a 47% increase in two years, PIE strives to go above and beyond to pursue the highest standards of safety."

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