

Zurich invests in Curaçao

By Doug Newhouse, 30 January 2009

Unique (Flughafen Zürich AG) has acquired a stake in Hato International Airport in Curaçao through its joint venture interest in A-Port and will also assume responsibility for the management and operation of the airport.

A-Port, a joint venture company in which Unique (Flughafen Zürich AG) holds a 15% minority interest, has acquired Alterra Curaçao Holding Ltd., thereby gaining a 51% stake in Hato International Airport, the main airport in Curaçao. As part of the acquisition, responsibility for the management and operation of Hato International Airport will be handed over to Unique (Flughafen Zürich AG) under a management agreement valid until 2033.

Outside of Switzerland, Unique (Flughafen Zürich AG) is currently engaged in the operation of ten other airports in India and Latin America. This is in line with its strategy of selectively concluding airport operating agreements in growth markets, in particular in South and Central America, Eastern Europe and South East Asia. In each case Unique (Flughafen Zürich AG) works together with strong local partners.

Hato International Airport is located on the north coast of Curaçao approximately ten kilometres from Willemstad, the capital of Netherlands Antilles. Passenger volume in 2008 was 1.5m, which represents an increase of 14.4% over the previous year. The licence for operating the airport runs until 2033.

A-Port S.A. is a Brazilian-Swiss-Chilean joint venture which develops, builds and operates airport projects and airport-related infrastructure in Latin America. The majority shareholder is the Brazilian firm Camargo Corrêa Group, with an 80% stake, while Unique (Flughafen Zürich AG) holds a 15% stake and the Chilean company IDC S.A. holds 5%.

Albert Brunner has been named CEO of Hato International Airport. Until the end of January 2008, he was CEO of BIAL, the owner-operator of Bengaluru International Airport in India, in which Unique (Flughafen Zürich AG) holds a 17% stake.