



Houston Hosts Airports Council International - North America's 13th Annual Conference & Exhibition.

632 words
20 September 2004
12:04 am GMT
CCNMatthews (Canada)
English

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HOUSTON--(CCNMatthews - Sep 19, 2004) -

Aviation's Future, Air Service Trends, Technology and Cargo Security Highlight the Agenda Sept. 19 - 22, 2004

Airports Council International - North America (ACI-NA) chairman Patrick Graham and president David Z. Plavin today officially opened the 13th Annual Airports Council International-North America (ACI-NA) Conference and Exhibition. More than 2000 aviation executives from across the continent will meet over the next three days at the Houston George R. Brown Convention Center to discuss important air transport challenges and opportunities in the current aviation environment. This year's conference "Airports: Shaping the Future of Travel and Trade," includes key programming sessions on airport security, aviation capacity, airline restructuring, air cargo development, air service strategies, and passenger processing initiatives.

"The events of the past few years have impacted all facets of aviation. With air traffic figures recovering and new security and passenger processing regulations upon us, airports are responding to the current aviation environment, and leading our communities through it," said Patrick Graham, ACI-NA 2004 Chairman and Executive Director of Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport. "During this conference, airport executives and key business leaders will meet to debate the challenges before us, and keep us on course as we shape aviation's future," he added.

Starting off the conference will be keynote speaker Gordon M. Bethune, Chairman & CEO, Continental Airlines, Inc. The Honorable John A. Culberson (R-Texas), The Honorable Kevin P. Brady (R-Texas), The Honorable Gene Green (D-Texas), The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas), and The Honorable Nicholas V. Lampson will also participate in the session.

Among the many highlights is the perennial favorite session "Friendly Fire with the FAA" where participants will have the opportunity to address key FAA decision makers as well as a similar session with key officials from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Panelists for other sessions include Tom Blank, Chief Systems Officer, TSA; Shonnie Lyon, Director, Implementation Management, US-VISIT; and Brian Flemming, Chairman, Canadian Air Transport Security Authority.

"As a former Chair of ACI-NA and holding that position the year following September 11, I understand first-hand the value of meeting with our airport counterparts and industry partners to discuss current issues in the industry," said Rick Vacar, Executive Director Houston Airport System. "We are pleased to participate in the discussions and to have the opportunity to host the conference this year," he added.

The Exhibition Hall, featuring over 120 aviation-related exhibitors, will be open daily to delegates. The Grand Hall Opening Reception will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. tonight.

REMINDER: There will be a press tour of the Exhibition Hall Sunday, September 19th at 4:00pm outside of Exhibit Hall G. Exhibitor visits include: US Visit, ARINC Incorporated, **Concourse Communications** Group, LLC, HMSHost Corporation, Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Megadata, and Checkpoint Mailers.

MEDIA NOTE:

Please plan on attending the press orientation briefing at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 20 in the Exhibit Hall at the ACI-NA Booth. This offering for journalists is designed to brief the press on the more aspects of the conference, highlight key officials in attendance and offer guidance on interview opportunities.

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The Airports Council International - North America (ACI-NA) is a membership organization representing approximately 170 state, regional and local governing bodies that own and operate the principal airports served by scheduled air carriers in the United States and Canada. ACI-NA member airports handle approximately 98 percent of the domestic, and virtually all of the international air passenger and cargo traffic in North America.