First Construction Milestone

On Thursday, March 8th, 2018, Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) signed the first construction contract for the Gateway 2030 Project with Arubaanse Wegenbouw Maatschappij (AWM) for the civil work relating to the relocation and construction of a new central utility plant, and main security gate.

This is an important milestone for Aruba Airport, as it marks a new phase in the course of the project, as the company now begins to move from the planning to the execution stage, an important milestone which will begin to give the project additional forward momentum.
After completing the first phase of the West Apron extension which included 2 new parking stands (16 and 17) created especially for type C aircraft, AAA recently started the second phase of the extension project which includes parts A and B.

In the second phase, a further extension will be completed adding Gates 13, 14 and 15. Additionally, an extension of taxiway Kilo will be carried out connecting to the apron taxiway.

2 New apron flood lights will also be installed, as well as new drain slots to collect water and oil that goes into a separation tank and afterwards into the storm water ditch.

The West Apron extension is set to be completed by the end of December 2018.

AAA invited its airline partners together with IATA representatives for a consultation meeting to inform, review and discuss new developments at the airport including upcoming projects related to the Gateway 2030 Project, the financial status of 2017 and what’s to be expected from the airport in 2018.

All present and also those who dialed in were given the opportunity to ask questions and/or provide feedback after the presentations given by AAA.
AAA 2017 Awards

During AAA’s “Glow” themed Relations Party, AAA thanked all of its partners and handed out 3 unique awards to highlight outstanding performances in 2017: COPA Airlines received the "On-Time-Performance Award" as the airline with the best on time performance record (89.5%) for 2017.

The “Airline Award” was given to JetBlue who managed to book an impressive performance of 43% increase in passenger growth for a total of 62,111 additional passengers. JetBlue added an important strategic daily nonstop service to their destinations, expanded their MINT service and the leading carrier in terms of revenue generating passengers (market share 15%).

De Wit & Van Dorp – Souvenirs & Toys received the "Concession Award" for their compliance with their operations and financials, the increase in the amount spent per passenger, and for its concession revenue increase of 10% compared to the year before and their sales increase of 7.1%.
AAA Hosts Press with Wine & Bites

AAA together with Airport Hospitality Industry N.V. invited all press members to an enjoyable afternoon experience at the new F&B outlets, Panda, Freshii and Wineport.

Panda Express is known for its popular dishes Kung Pao chicken, orange chicken, and exquisite sides. For the healthy option lovers, Freshii offers various wraps, soups, salads and much more. For those looking to sit back and relax with a view of arriving and departing planes, Wineport offers a wide variety of exquisite wines, cocktails a curated selection of craft beers that go perfectly with their hors d’oeuvres selection.

Passengers now have 3 additional options and more seating areas while waiting to board their departure flights.

Tourism and Transport Committee Visit

AAA recently hosted the Tourism and Transport Committee in Parliament during their visit at Aruba Airport.

The parliament members were given a thorough presentation of the Gateway 2030 project, new airport project updates, and were accompanied by the AAA team for a site tour to see the new developments taking place.
Facial Biometric Technology

After a successful pilot of the facial biometric technology, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (U.S. CBP) has officially rolled-out the biometric processing to all flights as per immediately.

The facial biometric technology is to verify the identities of travelers re-entering the United States from Aruba. U.S. CBP will open every day at 8:00AM and will process until around 1:00PM or earlier/later for every flight.

As with previous implementations of this technology, travelers have been eager and excited with U.S. CBP’s new and innovative entry/exit process.

For more information on U.S. CBP processes and requirements, please visit:

CBP.GOV: https://www.cbp.gov/
ESTA: https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/
USDA: https://www.usda.gov/

W Aviation

W Aviation Aruba started operations on January 1, 2018 and has been operating a full-service FBO offering in-plane fueling, handling, ancillary services, customer service, concierge, aircraft parking, customs support and ground handling.

W Aviation, a premier network of international fixed based operations, is a division of the privately held Ft. Lauderdale, FL based Windsor Group. W Aviation provides services to the aviation community, focusing on the international market, through their multi-channel business model of Fixed Based Operations (located in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Caracas Venezuela and now Oranjestad, Aruba – KFXE, SVMI, TNCA), charter services and aircraft management. They employ approximately 100 employees throughout their family of companies – W Aviation and Windsor Jet Management.
Invoices

As of January 1st, 2018, AAA has upgraded its software with a new format where all suppliers or contractors will now receive the Purchase Order electronically. Hardcopies are no longer necessary. All invoices from suppliers or contractors must include the PO# and are to be emailed to aaainvoices@airportaruba.com.

Additionally, AAA is working on improving its centralized activities where all business partners will automatically receive notifications if and when invoices become due or near the due date. In the meantime, AAA will be sending out debtor’s statements via our email collections@airportaruba.com. Therefore, we kindly request all partners to send your contact information to this email in order for AAA to register your company.

Southwest Daily Flights to Ft. Lauderdale

On March 8th, 2018, AAA welcomed the passengers on board Southwest’s first flight from Fort Lauderdale’s International Gateway to Aruba.

With this new change, the airline believes that more passengers will have the opportunity to connect through Southwest’s network to Aruba from the North East market, especially Boston and New York. The new flight from Fort Lauderdale will depart at 10:45AM and arrive in Aruba at 1:35PM. The return flight from Aruba will depart at 2:15PM and arrive at 5:20PM in Fort Lauderdale.
Relocation of two Burrowing Owl sites from Aruba Airport

When certain construction projects were about to start at Aruba Airport, the construction team spotted 2 Shoco nesting sites in the middle of the construction areas.

AAA sent a petition to the Minister of Spatial Planning, Infrastructure and Environment with the request for permission to have the shocos relocated and was granted an exemption for the relocation.

AAA has been working together with the Aruba Birdlife Conservation who was requested to investigate the situation for potential solutions. Together with Aruba’s National Park, funds were made available to the park to be able to work on shoco conservation and managed to contact the most experienced burrowing owl experts in the world to advise on shoco conservation.

As part of the Dutch Kingdom, only Aruba has burrowing owls and Aruba Airport felt responsible to ensure their safety and the safety of all its passengers who visit the airport.
Final Design of Gateway 2030

Click on one of the photos to view Gateway 2030 Project video.
AAA held its Queen of the Sky Election on February 6th, 2018 in front US check-in area with 4 lovely participants. The afternoon began with great entertainment by our local band, D’-Licious who hyped up the crowd before the election started.

As the election took flight, all 4 participants were invited on stage for the opening show and were able to dance to the international hit “Machika” by our own local artist, Jeon together with JBalvin and Anitta.

After giving their speech, the participants were called one by one afterwards to show their creative costumes that had to represent the company that each candidate represented. Not an easy task, but after the judges were able to see and score each performance, Aruba Airport’s Queen of the Sky 2018 was known together with 5 additional prizes. The prize ‘Reina di Ambiente’ and ‘1st Finalist QOTS was awarded to Olivia Stamper from IASA. ‘Reina di Bochincha’, ‘Best Speech’, ‘Best Costume’, and ‘Queen of the Sky 2018’ were won by AAA’s Magdalena Castillo-Wernet.

Congratulations to all the candidates who participated and preparations have already started for next year’s election that will be held at the airport cargo building.