



## PRESS RELEASE

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# The carbon standard for the airport industry - *Airport Carbon Accreditation* - goes Global

**Cancun:** Ahead of this year's United Nations COP20 Conference Of the Parties on the issue of Climate Change, taking place in Lima in early December, a key development in the airport industry's efforts to address their carbon emissions, was announced in Cancun this week - on the occasion of the 23rd ACI Latin America & Caribbean (LAC) Annual Conference and General Assembly.

Following the global airport industry's commitment to reduce its carbon emissions made 7 years ago\* and the European launch in 2009 of the carbon management standard *Airport Carbon Accreditation*, earlier this week the programme became global in scope, with its extension to airports in Latin America and the Caribbean.

*Airport Carbon Accreditation* certifies airports at **4 different levels of accreditation** (*Mapping, Reduction, Optimisation and Neutrality*). It is independently administered, institutionally-endorsed<sup>1</sup> and has already won praise from the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), the United Nation Environment Panel (UNEP) and the European Union (EU). In the past twelve months, *Airport Carbon Accredited* status has been earned by a total of **110 airports** in Europe, North America, Africa and Asia-Pacific.\*\*

**Puerto Vallarta International Airport (Mexico)** has just become the 111<sup>th</sup> airport in the programme and the first to become certified in Latin-America & Caribbean.

Having already achieved significant results in 5 continents°, the launch of *Airport Carbon Accreditation* in Latin America & Caribbean (in partnership with [ACI-LAC](#)) marks the decisive moment that the programme has become **the global standard for carbon management at airports.**

At the launch of the programme during the ACI-LAC Annual Conference in Cancun on Tuesday

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afternoon, **Javier Martinez, Director General ACI-LAC** commented “As an ambitious industry, we want to do our part to lower our carbon footprint in the global aviation system. It is our privilege to be the bridge that makes Airport Carbon Accreditation a truly global programme from today, and we look forward to being a bigger part of its success in the coming years.”

**Olivier Jankovec, Director General ACI EUROPE** commented “We are delighted to see Airport Carbon Accreditation become available to members of ACI-LAC today. It’s a big moment for the programme, as it demonstrates the momentum the airport industry’s climate change commitment has gained over the past 7 years and that the demand for this kind of tool is now genuinely global.”

They added “Many industries talk about their commitments. A significant part of the global airport industry is already actively addressing its carbon emissions – and they have mobilised on this, of their accord. They are proactively reporting on their carbon reduction activities every year and the number of airports is constantly growing too. An impressive **1.48 billion air passengers** now travel through airports certified at one of the 4 levels of the programme.”

**Airport Carbon Accreditation is now live across the world** and the **111 airports certified** by the programme welcome **25.9%** of global air passenger traffic annually.

In addition, airports which have firmly committed to apply in the coming months for certification at one of the 4 levels of the programme include Aéroports de Montreal, Denver International Airport, San Francisco International Airport, and Portland International Airport in **North America**, Libreville Airport and Abidjan Airport in **Africa** and Galapagos Airport and Quito Airport in **Latin America & Caribbean**.

To find out which airports are certified & their level of certification, visit:

<http://www.airportcarbonaccreditation.org/airport/participants.html>

**ENDS**



## NOTES FOR EDITORS:

The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) has estimated that aviation's total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions account for 2% of global emissions' impact on climate change. Of that figure, airports' own operations only account for up to 5%, but airports are keen to tackle their greenhouse gas emissions - several individual airports operators having already committed to becoming carbon neutral in the past few years with some having already achieved this.

\*In 2007, the global airport industry committed to reduce its carbon emissions, in a special resolution passed at the [ACI WORLD Annual Congress & Assembly](#).

Airports are at different points on this journey to become cleaner and more efficient. As the centrepieces of a complex web of aircraft movements, technical operations and surface access transport, airports can address their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in a variety of ways. These can include better insulation and energy efficiency, switching to green energy sources, investing in hybrid, electric or gas-powered service vehicles, encouraging employees, passengers & visitors to use public transport, working with airlines & air traffic management to reduce runway taxiing times and implement green landing processes and much more.

° Originally developed and launched by [ACI Europe](#) in June 2009, *Airport Carbon Accreditation* was extended to airports in Asia-Pacific, in November 2011 (in partnership with [ACI Asia-Pacific](#)) and to African airports in June 2013, (in partnership with [ACI Africa](#)) and North American airports in September 2014 (in partnership with [ACI-NA](#)).

<sup>1</sup>The programme is administered by leading consultancy WSP and overseen by an independent Advisory Board including representatives from ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation), UNEP (United Nations Environmental Programme), the European Commission, ECAC (European Civil Aviation Conference), EUROCONTROL and Manchester Metropolitan University.

<sup>2</sup>WSP is the administrator of *Airport Carbon Accreditation*. WSP, in combination with Parsons Brinckerhoff, is one of the world's leading engineering professional services consulting firms, with 31,500 staff, based in more than 500 offices, across 39 countries. Together we provide services to transform the built environment and restore the natural environment, and our expertise ranges from environmental remediation to urban planning, from engineering iconic buildings to designing sustainable transport networks, and from developing the energy sources of the future to enabling new ways of extracting essential resources. [www.wspgroup.co.uk](http://www.wspgroup.co.uk)

\*\*For full details of the levels of accreditation of the 102 airports certified between June 2013 and May 2014 and the reductions achieved, please see **Pages 43 to 46** of the *Airport Carbon Accreditation - Annual Report*

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