CONSTRUCTION ON APRON AND TAXIWAY EXPANSION STARTS AT SOUTHWEST FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

FORT MYERS, Fla. (Oct. 15, 2012) – The Lee County Port Authority has begun construction on the Apron and Taxiway Expansion Project at Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW) to enhance the area around the passenger terminal for safe movement and parking of aircraft as well as additional taxiways. The project is expected to be completed in December 2013 and bring 200 jobs to Southwest Florida.

The Apron and Taxiway Expansion Project will provide more space for aircraft taxiing between the runway and terminal gates, additional paved areas for overnight and diverted aircraft parking and a long-term, cross-field taxiway system linking the existing runway to the future parallel runway. Work will not affect passengers using RSW. The total project budget is $39.4 million and will come from grants from the Florida Department of Transportation and Lee County Port Authority funds.

"In the short-term, this project is important to Southwest Florida International Airport because it will enhance the safe movement of aircraft and give us more aircraft parking, which will help during peak season and inclement weather," said Robert M. Ball, A.A.E., executive director for the Lee County Port Authority. "As part of our long-term growth plan, the added cross-field taxiway system will link our current and future runways."

Southwest Florida International Airport served more than 7.5 million passengers in 2011 and is one of the top 50 U.S. airports for passenger traffic. No ad valorem (property) taxes are used for airport operation or construction. For more information, please visit www.flylcpa.com.

-30-