

Top Construction Projects: 5. Armstrong Airport

By: Robin Shannon, Reporter February 19, 2015

A new era of air travel in New Orleans is set to take off later this year as the city moves forward with construction of a new \$546.5 million terminal at Louis Armstrong International Airport. The project is part of an \$826 million vision for the facility that includes an interstate ramp that leads to the new terminal, a parking garage and a brand new, privately financed hotel.

Despite delays last year in the selection of a management team to lead construction of the terminal, airport leaders are confident that final designs will be ready by the end of June and construction can get underway by the fall. The new terminal is expected to be ready to open by May 2018 in time for the city's 300th anniversary.

The new terminal includes two concourses with a total of 30 gates, with room to expand to 42 gates. According to current designs, the two concourses would be connected behind the security lines, allowing for better management of large groups of passengers descending on the city for conventions and other events. The project also includes a 2,000-space parking garage.

The new terminal is part of an \$826 million redevelopment of the airport that will also include a solar power plant, an on-site hotel and a reworked flyover ramp from Interstate 10.

In August, the Aviation Board named the joint venture of Hunt Gibbs Boh Metro as construction manager at-risk for the terminal project, following a selection process that dragged out over three months. The partnership involving Hunt Construction of Indiana and New Orleans-based Gibbs Construction, Boh Bros. Construction and Metro Service Group edged out of NOLA Airport Builders, comprising Parsons Construction of Pasadena, Calif.; Odebrecht USA, the American offshoot of a Brazilian-based conglomerate; and New Orleans-based Royal Engineers & Consultants.

As construction manager at-risk, Hunt Gibbs Boh Metro is now engaged in negotiations with the airport to determine a guaranteed maximum price for the terminal construction. When a figure is agreed upon, the joint venture will



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begin bidding out specific aspects of the project.

Construction management and actual construction work tied to the airport redevelopment will weigh heavily on involvement from local firms and disadvantaged business enterprises. Goals include 36.5 percent DBE participation for construction management and 33.1 percent DBE for construction work.

When construction is complete, the airport will demolish concourses A, B and much of C in the present terminal. The land will be leased to businesses needing to locate facilities near the airport. Concourse D will be renovated into a terminal for charter flights and office space.

Armstrong Airport expansion

\$828 million

Project description: Construction of a new terminal, supporting commercial property and infrastructure

Start date: Fall 2015

Expected completion date: May 2018 for terminal

Peak construction employment: 13,000 construction jobs

Owner/developer: New Orleans Aviation Board

Construction manager: Hunt Gibbs Boh Metro joint venture

Key subcontractors: Perez APC, CDW Services, Frischhertz Electric Co., The MCC Group, The Beta Group, Navigant Consulting, Chaves Document Control, Shrewsberry and Associates

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