

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MBJ Airports Limited officially opens its New Departures Expansion

Montego Bay, Jamaica, 15 December 2022/MBJ Media// Sangster International Airport (SIA), Jamaica's leading gateway to the world operated by MBJ Airports Limited (MBJ), yesterday officially opened its newly Expanded Departures Area by the Minister of Transport & Mining, the Honourable Audley Shaw, representing Prime Minister Andrew Holness along with CEO of MBJ Airports Limited, CEO & President of Airports Authority of Jamaica and other Government officials and stakeholders.

Planning for the Departures Expansion commenced in 2017. This included hiring consultants, Pragma to provide expertise in Airport Space & Category Mix Planning and The Design Solution (TDS) to provide support the airport's commercial planning strategy and design services for the airport retail. Both Pragma and TDS were instrumental in the redevelopment of the retail program, created to transform the retail and service offering at the airport to international standards by delivering a memorable and stimulating shopping experience for passengers. The new design for the departure terminal seamlessly blends creative architectural design with commercial drivers by enhancing natural light, more circulation space and seating for passengers. The new retail program consists of well-appointed concessions creating a sense of place, providing passengers with a memorable experience to indulge in their last moments in Jamaica.

The redevelopment of the 4,000m² departures area includes an appealing 1,300 m² walkthrough Duty Free store operated by global travel retailer Dufry at the entrance to the departures retail area. This strategic design has created a functional and effective layout of the entire retail program and provide clear sightlines and footfall to the broader retail offering.

A 12m-high Rotunda double-height space, with a floor-to-ceiling curtain wall creates the focal point of the newly developed food court. Highlighting the food court is a palm-tree inspired bar with wrap around LED screens and the Bob Marley - One Love Restaurant, currently exclusive to Sangster International with a scheduled opening date of February 2023.

Minister of Transport & Mining, the Honourable Audley Shaw was excited to see the development in the Departure terminal stating, "MBJ Airports have been consistently raising the bar for airports in the region. It serves as a true representation of the vision to bring Jamaica's aviation into the 21st century and well beyond. Congratulations to the MBJ Airports and the team at the SIA on this new milestone. Job well done!"

Mr. Audley Deidrick was equally pleased and commended the management of MBJ on the redevelopment and indicated that this was a prime example of a successful public private partnership and underscores the benefits of such development to the country.





This is a significant moment for Shane Munroe of MBJ who transitioned into the role of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at the onset of the pandemic. His clear vision and decisive leadership have guided the execution of this project.

Mr. Munroe revealed that “Airports worldwide have been forced to assess their strategic outlook given the impact of the global pandemic. Early lessons taught us at MBJ that we needed to continue responding to the crisis with agility, innovation and a passenger-centric focus into the future. I am truly proud of the entire team that has worked to make this vision a reality and we will be pursuing transformational changes that are equally passenger focused and operationally impactful, futureproofing MBJ’s continued recovery. The completion of this work is one step as we work towards our vision of being a leading tourism destination airport, exceeding the expectations of our passengers, while being uniquely Jamaican.”

In his presentation, Mr. Munroe shared that “every step of the customer journey on Arrival and Departure is an opportunity to win the heart of a visitor so that they will choose to visit Jamaica over and over again. We want our passengers to develop an emotional connection to our country and by extension, Sangster International Airport, creating wow experiences at each step of the journey that will draw them back to Jamaica. Our intention with facilities such as this Departures area that you see here today is to do just that, win their hearts, and have them remember why they must visit this beautiful country once more.

Robbie Gill, Managing Director (The Design Solution) added “Early in 2017, and with many of the retail leases after duty free coming up for renewal, the team from Sangster approached us to see if we could find any further opportunities. Little did we know how ambitious the airport was. As it turned out, their vision was to create a gateway, that would challenge any other airport in the Caribbean and to both welcome visitors but also to bid them a fond farewell before their next visit. This is the first step towards the airport team’s ultimate ambition. We are so proud to have been part of the journey so far and look forward to the incredible future evolving.”

The newly upgraded Retail offer at Sangster International Airport spans 68 outlets with a wide variety of product listing, with store aesthetics infused with a strong Jamaican ‘sense of place’, creating meaningful experiences for our passengers.

International Operator

Operator	Category	Brand/Product
DUFREY	Duty Free Store Convenience/Travel & News Technology Souvenirs	Liquor, Perfumery, Cosmetics, Jewelry, Accessories, Food, Chocolate Hudson News Tech – on the Go Souvenirs

Local Operators

Operator	Category	Brand/Product
Bijoux	Duty-Free Luxury Watches & Jewelry	Breitling/Movado/Pandora
Chulani	Boutique	Island Chic
DIDD (XO Store)	Duty-Free High-End Cigar & Liquor	Aged Cognac, Single Malt Scotch, Cigars



House of Diamond	Duty-Free Premium Jewelry & Watches	Hearts on Fire/ Tissot/ Mont Blanc/ Le Vian
Bhavela Jamaica Limited	Branded Fashion/Souvenir	Tuff Gong (Bob Marley)
Communicase Limited	Health & Beauty Branded Technology Branded Fashion	Aromatherapy Products Cellairis Tech Accessories Iconic Jamaican Clothing & Accessories
Flights of Fantasy Limited	Sterling Silver Jewelry, semi-precious stones	Marahago /Uno de 50/ Jorge Revilla
Jamaica Standard Products	Edible Gifting – Packaged Coffee	Coffee and Spices
MZ Holdings Ltd	Kids Fashion and Accessories	Cool Kids Clothing & Souvenir
Reggae Vibes	Edible Gifting	Pre-packaged Jamaican edibles
Roelchi Trading Limited	Premium Local Art and Craft	Walkgood Souvenir – Jamaican Craft
Tortuga Caribbean	Rum Cake	Tortuga branded rum cake
Viking Productions	Souvenirs and Gifts Branded Fashion Convenience & Gifts Food & Beverage	Sharkeez Harley Davidson Castaways Mobay Artisan
VW Enterprises	Souvenir	Caribbean Hub
Y & S Enterprises Ltd	Souvenirs and Gifts	Heritage Souvenir

Local Operators

Operator	Category	Brand/Product
Express Catering Limited	Food & Beverage	Marley Restaurant/ Air Margaritaville/ Wendy's/ Domino's/ Quiznos/ Starbucks/ Dairy Queen/ Cinnabon/ Auntie Anne's/ The Bar/ Viva Gourmet/ Groovy Grouper

About Sangster International Airport:

Sangster International Airport (IATA: MBJ, ICAO: MKJS) is an international airport located 3 mi (4.8 km) east of Montego Bay, Jamaica. The airport is capable of handling nine million passengers per year. It serves as the most popular airport for tourists visiting the north coast of Jamaica. The airport is named after former Jamaican Prime Minister Sir Donald Sangster.

About MBJ Airports:

MBJ Airports Limited, the operator of Sangster International Airport, connects Jamaica to more than 60 international destinations. A record of 4.7m passengers used the airport in 2019. MBJ operates SIA under a 30-year concession awarded in 2003 and the airport provides employment to more than 7,500 persons. SIA has been named the Caribbean's Leading Airport by World Travel Awards for 14 years.

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Unveiling of the plaque to commemorate the Opening ceremony

Mr. Shane Munroe, CEO MBJ Airports Limited; Hon. Audley Shaw, Minister of Transport & Works; Mr. Audley Deidrick, President & CEO, Airports Authority of Jamaica



View of the Central Bar in the newly Expanded Departure Area





Presentation by Mr. Shane Munroe, CEO, MBJ Airports Limited



Attendees at the Opening Ceremony of the newly Expanded Departures Retail Area

