



## ACI EUROPE Best Airport Award winners for 2009 announced

For immediate release

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**Manchester, 17 June 2009:** The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual **ACI EUROPE Best Airport Awards** were announced yesterday evening in Manchester during the gala dinner of the 19<sup>th</sup> ACI EUROPE Annual Congress. It was the conclusion to a day of intensive exchanges and debates between nearly 400 top industry representatives, national government and EU officials on the key challenges European airports are facing, including the climate change priority and the effects of the crisis on the sector.

This year's judging panel was drawn from a well-respected group of independent experts including the European Commission, EUROCONTROL and the European Disability Forum. ACI EUROPE counts more than 400 airports in 46 European countries among its membership and this year's competition saw a high level of entries in each of the four categories.

The ACI EUROPE Best Airport Awards\* cover 4 categories of airport and aim to recognise achievement in core activities such as customer service, retail, security and environmental awareness.

The awards were presented to winning airports by Dr Yiannis Paraschis, President of ACI EUROPE and Chief Executive Officer of Athens International Airport, Mike Davies, Chairman of Manchester Airports Group, David McMillan, Director General EUROCONTROL and Daniel Calleja, Director Air Transport, European Commission.

The first award, recognising airports in the '1-5 million passenger' category, went to **Aeroporto G. Marconi Di Bologna SpA** for being 'a great all-rounder' in operations, retail, community engagement and airline relations.

The winner of the '5-10 million passenger' category was **TAV Ankara Esenboğa Airport**. As with number of the top candidates in this category, the airport excels in all the keys areas of operations, however the judges singled it out for its work in the area of environmental innovation, securing an incredible 25% energy savings stemming from its recycling of exhaust gases to power its air conditioning plants.

This year's award in the '10-25 million passenger' category went to **Palma de Mallorca Airport**. The airport's exceptional success in defying the seasonality associated with its status as a holiday destination. The airport's strong relations with its airline customers and its successful adoption of a hub strategy helped to make it the clear winner in this category.

And in the final category, for airports with 'over 25 million passengers', this year's final ACI EUROPE Best Airport award went to **Amsterdam Airport Schiphol**. The judges cited Amsterdam Airport Schiphol's successful focus on community relations and environmental awareness as the decisive factor for them – particularly commending the airport for its "barrier of silence", which will help minimise noise for the neighbouring community.

## ENDS ##

### **Note to editors:**

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\* Please note: The **ACI EUROPE Best Airport Awards** are separate from the **ACI World ASQ Awards**.

Press release

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*ACI EUROPE is the European region of Airports Council International (ACI), the only worldwide professional association of airport operators. ACI EUROPE represents over 400 airports in 46 European countries. Member airports handle 90% of commercial air traffic in Europe, welcoming nearly a billion and a half passengers each year.*