



ACI EUROPE

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ACI Airport Exchange kicks off in Istanbul, hosted by iGA

For immediate release

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Brussels, 9 December 2015: İGA Havalimanı İşletmesi A.Ş. – the company building the world's biggest new airport north of Istanbul is today and tomorrow hosting the **10th ACI Airport Exchange** at the prestigious new Istanbul Congress Center in the heart of downtown Istanbul. The event, which combines an extensive airport services & equipment exhibition with seven specialist conferences addressing all aspects of airport management & operations is staged jointly by two regions of Airports Council International, ACI EUROPE and ACI Asia-Pacific.

As leading companies from around the world continue to compete to become involved with the largest new airport ever built, the exhibition has attracted well over 100 exhibitors, while up to 1,800 delegates and visitors have already registered to attend. As part of the conference offering, a dedicated 'Istanbul New Airport Development' Conference focuses on the €10.2 billion new airport.

Nihat Özdemir, Board Member, İGA Havalimanı İşletmesi A.Ş. and Chairman of Limak Holdings said *"At İGA, we feel honored to host such a significant event that gathers industrial representatives from various countries across the world. Airport Exchange 2015 is a significant opportunity for us to draw attention to Turkish aviation industry's rapid growth over the past 15 years alongside our country's position in the global aviation industry, as the event takes place in Istanbul. A natural "hub" in geographical terms - with Istanbul New Airport, we aim to contribute to the development of Turkish aviation industry and let Istanbul become a bright star for the global aviation industry."*

Olivier Jankovec, Director General of ACI EUROPE commented *"This is one of the largest ACI events ever staged and its location - straddling the border between Europe and Asia - could not be more appropriate. Turkey is one of the best case studies of airports and airlines playing a decisive role in supporting a country's economic development – and its global ambitions. Today, aviation accounts for over 7% of the country's GDP. Passenger traffic at the current Istanbul-Atatürk hub airport has doubled since 2008 to over 56 million passengers – and the new airport being developed will project Istanbul into the future."*

He added *"The rapid development of iGA's new mega-hub airport is a stark reminder of how much aviation is an acknowledged strategic instrument of soft power here in Turkey."*

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* ACI Airport Exchange is always hosted by a major airport undertaking significant development in Europe or Asia – most recently Hamad International Airport, Doha (2013) and Aéroports de Paris (2014).

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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 close to **500 airports** in 45 European countries. In 2014, our member airports handled over 90% of commercial air traffic in Europe, welcoming more than **1.8 billion passengers, 18.4 million tonnes of freight** and **21.2 million aircraft***

movements. These airports contribute to the employment of **12.3 million people**, generating **€675 billion each year (4.1%) of GDP** in Europe.

EVERY FLIGHT BEGINS AT THE AIRPORT.