AUTORIDAD DE LOS PUERTOS

**PRPA begins RFI process to establish aerospace port**

*To be located at the José Aponte de la Torre Regional Airport in Ceiba*

**San Juan, March 1, 2021 –** With the interest of continuing to be a contributor to the economic and social development of the eastern region and the island, the Puerto Rico Ports Authority (PRPA) has begun a Request for Information (RFI) process in search of a master developer services for the establishment of an aerospace port or “Spaceport” at the José Aponte de la Torre (JAT) regional airport in Ceiba, PRPA executive director Joel A. Pizá Batiz announced today.

"Aerospace activity, exploratory trips and events beyond our atmosphere arouse great interest in local and global citizens, while generating significant income and investment on economic, human and scientific capital," added Pizá Batiz.

The Ports Authority executive director explained that, based on a Desirability Study commissioned in 2019 to the firm RS&H ([www.rsandh.com](http://www.rsandh.com)), the JAT regional airport in Ceiba, and the surrounding facilities, could represent a geographically-strategic space for activities for the manufacturing and storage of aerospace equipment, which, in the future, could include launch activities, subject to the approval of a launch site operator license (LSOL).

Launch activity, Pizá Batiz elaborated, can range from nano-satellites to space transport ships, subject to approval of the licensing process. Until recently, tech company Google used the facilities of the JAT regional airport in Ceiba for its Loon pilot project, from where balloons were launched to provide internet to regions that are inaccessible or with little or no internet connectivity.

“That is why the PRPA summons the members of the innovative community and aerospace experts to share a presentation of no more than fifteen (15) pages where they can provide specific information on their activities related to the manufacture and storage of equipment. aerospace and / or related activities, and how they could establish their operations in spaces at the JAT regional airport in Ceiba, an area that belongs to the Puerto Rico Ports Authority”, Pizá Batiz explained.

Details of the Request for Information are available as of today at the PRPA website, [http://www.prpa.pr.gov/Documents/JAT%20Sources%20Sought.pdf](https://prpa.pr.gov/Documents/JAT%20Sources%20Sought.pdf).

The deadline to submit the information is May 26, 2021.

“The aerospace sector is a growing industry worldwide, and our Island has not been the exception. Thanks to the proximity of the island of Puerto Rico to the Ecuador, the skills of our workforce, an advanced industrial incentives program, Puerto Rico's competitiveness, climate, and quality of life, make us the ideal place to establish an aerospace port. This, in addition to being an extraordinary opportunity to position ourselves, before the world, as an attractive destination. The aerospace port will contribute positively to the creation of well-paid jobs, which, in turn, encourages our professionals to choose to stay on the island”, secretary of Economic Development and Commerce (DDEC) Manuel Cidre Miranda, stated.

"The Ports Authority remains focused on maximizing the true potential of our facilities, so that these continue to be economic development axes for the benefit of the municipalities where these are located and surrounding regions as well," Pizá Batiz concluded.

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