



Press Release – July 23, 2020

Signing of concessionaire agreement for Sofia Airport

On July 22, the Bulgarian Ministry of Transport and the SOF Connect consortium signed the concessionaire agreement for Sofia Airport. The project has now entered a new phase and Meridiam, Strabag and Munich Airport are looking forward to closely working together with all stakeholders to enhance the attractiveness of Sofia Airport as well as the Bulgarian economy.

Thierry Déau, Founder and CEO of Meridiam: “Our ambition is for Sofia Airport to become an enabler of social, economic, environmental and inclusive growth that contributes to Sofia, its region and Bulgaria. World-class, sustainability and resilience standards will be applied to transform Sofia Airport in a success story which will benefit the Bulgarian citizens, the airport employees and partners.”

The 35-year public-private partnership will add to Bulgaria’s economic rebound post Corona and support to achieve major regional benefits in social, economic and environmental aspects. By implementing new technologies, increasing the level of service and improving the efficiency of airport facilities, the consortium will develop Sofia Airport as best-practice example – serving as a reference location for flights across Europe, Middle East and Transcaucasia.

With a proven experience in the airport sector and an existing portfolio of landmark airports including LaGuardia Central Terminal (New York, USA), Queen Alia International (Jordan) or Ivato and Nosy Bé (Madagascar), Meridiam intends to set the ground for another long-term success story with the new Sofia Airport. Building a new sustainable infrastructure with positive impact.

As new airport operator, Munich Airport will provide all its knowledge, expertise and market outreach – especially in terms of airline marketing, route development, passenger experience, smart airport development, airport city development and operational efficiency. “We have a long-standing experience as successful airport operator and look forward to bringing our best practices to Sofia”, said Jost Lammers, President and CEO at Munich Airport.

Meridiam was founded in 2005 by Thierry Déau, with the belief that the alignment of interests between the public and private sector can provide critical solutions to the collective needs of communities. Meridiam is an independent investment Benefit Corporation under French law and an asset manager. The firm specializes in the development, financing, and long-term management of sustainable public infrastructure in three core sectors: mobility, energy transition and environment, and social infrastructure. With offices in, Addis Ababa, Amman, Dakar, Istanbul, New York, Luxembourg, Paris, Toronto and Vienna, Meridiam currently manages US\$8 billion and more than 80 projects and assets to date. Meridiam is certified ISO 9001: 2015, Advanced Sustainability Rating by VigeoEiris and applies a proprietary methodology in relation to ESG and impact based on United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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Strabag Group, having significant local presence through its holding company Strabag EAD is a construction services company with an investment grade rating from S&P and operating on a global basis on average ca. 72,900 employees and a turnover of ca. 13,5 billion Euros in 2017. It is one of the world’s strongest EPC providers and also one of the few companies capable of offering services along the entire

construction value chain. Strabag Group has vast experience in construction of airports and surrounding facilities.

Munich Airport was incorporated in 1949 and is jointly owned by the Free State of Bavaria (51 percent), the Federal Republic of Germany (26 percent) and the city of Munich (23 percent). Within just a few years of opening, Munich Airport developed into a major air transportation hub and was firmly established as one of Europe's 10 busiest airports. In 2019 it handled more than 417,000 flights and a total of 47.9 million passengers. Bavaria's gateway to the world was the first – and to date remains the only – airport in Europe to be awarded five stars by the London-based Skytrax Institute. After the smooth move to its new location in 1992, Munich Airport started contributing consultancy, management and training services to other airports, airlines and investors throughout the world. By now, Munich has successfully delivered projects in over 30 countries, including e.g. USA, Brazil, Honduras, Ecuador, India, Singapore, China, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, South Africa, Egypt and Turkey.



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