



The public was welcome aboard the United Express Jetliner for a tour.

Palmdale's First Arrival

■ **More than 300 people witnessed first landing of a commercial jetliner in LA Palmdale's history.**

Story by Liz Montes, Club Counselor, and Harold Johnson, Public and Community Relations, LA Ontario; Photos by Liz Montes

AIRPORTS — On May 8, more than 300 people witnessed the first landing of a commercial jet airliner as part of the re-launch of commercial passenger service at LA/Palmdale Regional Airport (PMD) during a community open house in advance of the start of scheduled air service June 7.

On board the United Express regional jetliner -- a Bombardier CRJ200 -- were members of the Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners and other City officials including City Councilman Bill Rosendahl, chair of the Southern California Regional Airport Authority.

United will fly two round trips per day between PMD and San Francisco International Airport (SFO), where travelers can connect to dozens of domestic and international flights.

"United is delighted to partner with the City of Palmdale and Los Angeles World Airports to give our Antelope Valley customers more convenient access to our global network," said Bill Kramer, managing director of United Airlines.

Palmdale Mayor James Ledford presided at ceremonies held on the PMD tarmac to showcase the newly remodeled passenger terminal and the United Express regional jet. The outreach event was held to familiarize residents with the airport and introduce residents to United's new service.

"This is a giant step in the right direction," Los Angeles Councilmember Bill Rosendahl said. "The opening of LA/Palmdale Airport is a fundamental part of our regionalization strategy -- it eases the traffic gridlock that chokes our highways and streets and expands air service for our traveling public."

Samson Mengistu, acting executive director of Los Angeles World Airports, said the event at PMD was "history-making" and resulted from "a very strong partnership involving many people and many agencies over many years."

Mengistu said that Airports will soon select a



Airport Employees who refurbished the Palmdale Airport Terminal, front row, from left: Darren Popper, Utility Crew; Melisa Menefield-Collier, Custodial; Carmen De Jonge, Custodial; Robert Garcia, Utility Crew; Jose Zavala, Custodial; Ed Ridderbusch, Electric Shop; and Robert Gluck, Construction and Maintenance Supervisor. Back row: David Watson, Electric Shop; Fernando Alday, Utility Shop; Eugene Johnston, Carpentry Shop; Lodi Woodmore, Utility Shop; and Kipp Coughtrie, PMD Maintenance.

full-time airport manager to oversee airport operations at LA/Palmdale. "Moreover," he said, "we will redouble our efforts to market this wonderful airport to additional airlines throughout the U.S. and we will continue our comprehensive outreach efforts to the business, civic and travel industry communities in the High Desert and beyond."

Under the supervision of Robert Gluck, Ontario Airport Construction and Maintenance Division, employees from both Van Nuys and Ontario Airport refurbished the Palmdale Terminal. It was a three-month project to prepare the terminal for the opening. The terminal was given a complete makeover with new paint, new signage, new rooftop, lighting and new blacktop for the parking area.

PMD is on a 60-acre site at U.S. Air Force Plant 42. It is approximately 60 miles northeast of downtown Los Angeles off State Highway 14. Airports owns 17,750 acres of land adjacent to Plant 42, most of which is available for development. PMD is one of four airports owned and operated by Airports, a City of Los Angeles department that also owns and operates Los Angeles International, LA/Ontario International and Van Nuys airports.



Attending the Palmdale Airport Showcase featuring the ceremonial landing of a commercial jetliner were (from left) Palmdale Mayor James Ledford, Los Angeles City Councilman Bill Rosendahl and Lancaster Mayor Henry Hearn, giving a thumbs-up to air service to San Francisco that begins June 7.



Samson Mengistu, Acting Executive Director, Airports.



From left: Melisa Menefield-Collier, Club Member, Ontario Airport Custodial; Carmen De Jonge, Custodial; and Jose Zavala, Club Member, Custodial.

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