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## **New International Terminal A-West Opens At Philadelphia International Airport**

With the opening of its new International Terminal A-West, Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) adds 13 new international gates to its 7 existing gates in Terminal A-East, giving PHL a total of 20 international gates.

The physical appearance of the building is stunning, with glass used so extensively that travelers have views from every part of the terminal, from the arrivals corridor to the departure lounges. The entire facility is bathed in natural lighting with an unusual sloping glass roof in the football-shaped Arrivals Hall.

Designed by the architectural firm Kohn, Pedersen and Fox, this glass-intensive, airy, contemporary building is half the size of the entire Airport and connects to the existing Terminal A-East to form one massive international terminal complex.

This impressive \$550 million, four-level, 800,000 square-foot facility features:

- 26,000 square feet of concession space
- expanded federal inspection facilities
- 56 U.S. Immigration & Naturalization booths
- 8 high-speed baggage claim carousels
- 1,500 additional parking spaces
- 60 ticket counter positions
- 270 Closed Circuit Television Cameras
- Arrivals Hall adjacent to parking garage, with access to high speed rail line and ground transportation

Mayor John F. Street hailed the opening of Terminal A-West stating, "This massive project is a major economic stimulus for Philadelphia and its citizens. It has already created an estimated 2,700 temporary jobs for construction workers and is anticipated to create 3,400 permanent jobs for the region. Its ripple effect will generate spending to local businesses and provide tax dollars for the region."

Director of Aviation Charles J. Isdell said, “The completion of this world-class facility secures Philadelphia’s niche as a gateway to the world and is an important boost for tourism in the Philadelphia region.”

The gleaming new international terminal is a stark contrast to the grassy runway and primitive conditions that greeted Charles A. Lindbergh on October 12, 1927, when he flew in to Philadelphia to dedicate what was then called Philadelphia Municipal Airport.

With the launch of non-stop air service to Dublin and Shannon, Ireland, on May 4 and 5, 2003, Philadelphia International Airport now has 30 international destinations to Europe, the Caribbean and Canada.

*Philadelphia International Airport is owned and operated by the City of Philadelphia. The Airport is a self-sustaining entity that operates without the use of local tax dollars. It is one of the largest economic engines in Pennsylvania, generating an estimated \$7.2 billion in spending to the regional economy and employing a workforce of nearly 21,000. Visit the official Philadelphia International Airport website at [www.phl.org](http://www.phl.org)*