



Rueil-Malmaison, 21 December 2007

VINCI Airports and Keolis Airport win operating contract for the Clermont-Ferrand/Auvergne airport

The Clermont-Ferrand/Auvergne airport governing authority, composed of the Auvergne Regional Council, the Clermont community and the Puy-de-Dôme Departmental Council, has awarded the contract to operate the Clermont-Ferrand/Auvergne airport to the consortium made up 50/50 of VINCI Airports (consortium leader) and Keolis Airport. The two companies are already partners in the operation of the airports in Grenoble and Chambéry.

The seven-year public service operating contract will come into effect on 1 January 2008. It covers the operation, maintenance and upkeep of the entire airport: terminal, runways and equipment, as well as the shopping and catering facilities. All the airport personnel (170 people) will join the VINCI Airports/Keolis Airport consortium.

The consortium will have responsibility for ensuring the business development of the airport, which currently handles 550,000 passengers per year. Passenger numbers will be increased, thus benefiting the region's economy and tourism, and management of current infrastructure will be optimised.

The contract is part of the process of decentralising the management of French regional airports. The VINCI Airports/Keolis Airport consortium has been managing the Grenoble-Isère and Chambéry-Savoie airports under the same framework since 2004. These first experiences have been very successful, as the two airports have seen the sector's highest increases in passenger numbers. After four years of operation, Grenoble-Isère has recorded growth of 172% and Chambéry-Savoie 68%.

***VINCI Airports** is a subsidiary of VINCI Concessions, Europe's leading operator in infrastructure and transport concessions. In 2006, VINCI Concessions generated €4.3 billion and served 600 million customers. It manages five airports in France and Cambodia, with total passenger numbers of 3.5 million.*

***Keolis Airport** is the airport management specialist of the Keolis group, which is France's leading operator of public transport services and the world leader in the management of automated metro systems. The 33,000 employees of Keolis transport more than 1.8 billion passengers per year. The company generated revenue of €2.6 billion in 2006. Keolis Airport is the French leader in public service airport operation, with three airports in partnership with VINCI Airports and three airports managed directly: Angers, Albert Picardie and Troyes.*

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