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## **Universal Aviation in Aruba Celebrates Official Grand Opening *Dedicates Terminal Hall to Universal Founder Thomas G. Evans and Honors Local Pioneer***

**Houston, Texas / Oranjestad Aruba** (April 17, 2007) – Aruba Airport Authority N.V. and Universal Aviation Aruba N.V., a member of the UVglobal Network<sup>®</sup> and a subsidiary of Universal Weather and Aviation, Inc. (Universal<sup>®</sup>), will welcome a gathering of corporate executives, local officials and media representatives as it celebrates the grand opening of Aruba's new 1,500 square-meter General Aviation Terminal (GAT) April 20. The 1,500 square-foot stand-alone facility is operated by Universal Aviation under an agreement with the Aruba Airport Authority N.V. and is located at the Queen Beatrix International Airport in Oranjestad, Aruba.

The grand opening ceremonies will honor the founder of Universal, Thomas G. Evans, by dedicating the main terminal hallway in his memory.

“This facility is a model for other GATs, and it is only fitting that we will dedicate the main terminal to Tom Evans who, like this facility, was always on the leading edge of business aviation,” said Claudio Stamper, General Manager of Universal Aviation in Aruba.

Also honored at the grand opening will be Aruba aviation pioneer, Harold Oduber.

“We also are pleased to be presenting a commemorative award to Harold Oduber, who opened the door for aviation services in Aruba,” said Mr. Stamper. “It was the foresight of visionaries such as Mr. Evans and Mr. Oduber, whose work laid the foundation for this facility. It's also a tribute to the success of the partnership between Universal Aviation and the Aruba Airport Authority, which together have made this ‘dream’ a reality.”

Aruba Airport Director Peter Steinmetz welcomed their new aviation partner. “With the opening of this modern general aviation facility, Aruba Airport Authority N.V. has accomplished another goal towards its overall vision of being an innovator, entrepreneur and a market leader in the Caribbean area. We strongly believe that the services rendered at the general aviation facility compliment our services in our main terminal in an important way and focus on passenger needs of a supplemental market segment. We are delighted with these developments and look forward to a strong and successful business relationship with our partners at Universal Weather and Aviation.”

Mr. Steinmetz also emphasized that the airport's choice for Universal<sup>®</sup> has proven to be the right one: “Attracting a seasoned partner as Universal Weather produced immediate results. By the end of 2006, general aviation movements showed an increase of 19.4 percent over 2005. In addition, the first three months of 2007 indicated a 20.8 percent increase in movements over the

same period in 2006. There is room for growth and we are confident that this trend will continue.”

Universal Aviation won the bid in 2004 for exclusive rights to build and operate the GAT, including provision or coordination of all ground services and other amenities to general aviation operators at the facility. Working in conjunction with the Aruba Airport Authority, and with more than a little help from several Aruban government agencies the new terminal became fully operational January 24, 2007.

“Business aviation operations are already significantly up since Universal Aviation began providing services in Aruba,” said Walter Lindo, UVglobal Network<sup>®</sup>, Regional Director, Latin America and the Caribbean. “This facility will help Aruba reach its potential as an attractive general aviation hub for business, pleasure or tech stops.”

Features and services at the new facility are available 24-hours-a-day and include a duty-free shop, ample ramp and parking space, VIP and pilot lounges, on-site customs and immigration, as well as coordination of ground transportation, airport fees, hotels, rental car service, 24-hour security arrangements, catering, line maintenance, flight planning, fuel and weather briefings.

This new facility combined with Aruba’s strategic location in relation to Latin America and the Caribbean will help ensure that Aruba’s aviation economy will continue its current pace of economic growth. “Other nations’ airport authorities will take notice of this new facility and the increased traffic it drives. This sets the standard for the development of general aviation terminals in the region,” said Mr. Lindo.

*To learn more about Universal Aviation in Aruba, contact Claudio Stamper, (297) 594-8198, (297) 588-2465, or e-mail: [aruba@uvglobalnetwork.com](mailto:aruba@uvglobalnetwork.com). To learn more about the UVglobal Network<sup>®</sup>, call (713) 944-1622 ext. 5707, N. America Toll-Free (800) 231-5600 ext. 5707, or visit [uvglobalnetwork.com](http://uvglobalnetwork.com).*

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*To learn more about Universal Weather and Aviation, Inc., e-mail [sales@universalweather.com](mailto:sales@universalweather.com), or call (800) 231-5600 ext. 3300 (N. America Toll-Free) or (713) 944-1622 ext. 3300 (Worldwide).*

*Universal: Success from the word **GO**.*

*Aruba Airport Authority N.V. is the operator and manager of the Queen Beatrix International Airport in Aruba. On a yearly basis over 1.6 million passengers make use of our facility either as point of origin, destination or transfer. The modern facilities of the Queen Beatrix International Airport are staffed by friendly and multilingual professionals who assist in managing the airport as a safe, secure, financially self-sustainable, customer oriented and outstanding Caribbean airport.*



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