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### **READY, SET, CONNECTED!**

*Georgia International Convention Center is the first convention center in U.S. with direct connection to major airport*

**(Atlanta/College Park, GA)** - With the holiday season in full swing, the Georgia International Convention Center (GICC) is proud to announce that as of Tuesday, December 8, 2009, the GICC will be the first convention center in the United States that is directly connected to a major airport.

The project making this possible is Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport's new state-of-the-art rental car center and ATL SkyTrain, which began service on December 8. The new 67.5-acre rental car facility is located adjacent to the GICC, and will allow customers to have streamlined access to all of the Airport's rental car companies in one convenient location.

The ATL SkyTrain is the free, elevated people mover train that will transport travelers from Hartsfield-Jackson to the rental car center. The great news for the GICC and its patrons is that the first stop on the ATL SkyTrain will be at the new GICC station. With the opening of the ATL SkyTrain, the GICC will have the proud distinction of being the first convention center in the U.S. with a direct connection to a major airport – and the world's busiest airport, to be exact.

"This marks an exciting day for the GICC. This convention center was strategically built in this location to capitalize on Hartsfield-Jackson's new rental car center and specifically the accompanying people mover, the ATL SkyTrain. This new direct connection to Hartsfield-Jackson truly makes the GICC one of the most internationally accessible convention centers in the country," said Hugh Austin, the GICC's Executive Director.

This project also has another distinction: Hartsfield-Jackson is the first airport in the county to open a rental car center and its associated people mover system simultaneously.

"We are proud to be associated with this great project. The partnership between Hartsfield – Jackson, the GICC and both the cities of Atlanta and College Park have made this all possible, and we are looking forward to a bright future of increased growth for all parties involved," Austin remarked. "At the end of the day, not only will the GICC and Hartsfield-Jackson benefit, but ultimately, with the convenience and accessibility this project brings, it will be our clients and guests that will have the most to gain."

#### **About the GICC**

*The GICC is Georgia's newest, second largest convention center. Located adjacent to Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, and only 10 minutes from downtown Atlanta, the GICC features 150,000 feet of exhibit space, Georgia's largest ballroom, and one of Georgia's premier culinary centers. Additionally, opening on the GICC campus are two convention hotels, a 403-room Marriott headquarters hotel slated to open summer of 2010, and a 147-room SpringHill Suites hotel, opening in mid-December, 2009. For more information, please visit [www.gicc.com](http://www.gicc.com).*

#### **About Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport**

*Hartsfield-Jackson is the world's busiest airport, serving more than 90 million passengers annually with nonstop service to 156 U.S. destinations and more than 80 international destinations in 50 countries. The Airport is undergoing \$6 billion-plus in capital improvements, which will include a new, 12-gate international terminal; and aesthetic and functional upgrades to its concourses, people movers and parking services. For more information, go to [www.atlanta-airport.com](http://www.atlanta-airport.com).*

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