

Airport and Strategic Economic Partners Bring Home Nonstop service to Zurich, Switzerland, via Edelweiss Air

Starting May 25, 2012, Edelweiss Air will connect Tampa to Zurich twice weekly

TAMPA, FL (September 15, 2011) – Today, Tampa International Airport CEO Joe Lopano announced the Airport together with Visit St. Pete/Clearwater and other strategic partners were successful at attracting Edelweiss Air to Tampa with new twice-weekly nonstop service to Zurich, Switzerland. The partners that helped convince Edelweiss Air that the Tampa Bay area was the right choice included: Visit St. Petersburg/ Clearwater, Tampa Bay & Company, Tampa Hillsborough Economic Development Corporation, The Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce and AAA Auto Club South.

The annual economic impact of Edelweiss' new service for the Tampa Bay Region is \$31.6 million, and it will create 265 new jobs. Edelweiss Air will use an Airbus A330 with 332 seats on board. It is configured with 36 business class seats and 296 economy seats.

Michael Trestl, Business Development Manager, Edelweiss Air, explained, "We have decided to fully concentrate our efforts in Florida on Tampa. We will launch a year-round service two-weekly flights between Tampa and Zurich on Tuesdays and Fridays during the peak summer months and continue with one-weekly flight in the winter season of 2012/2013."

Passenger traffic at Tampa International Airport is strong. During the first seven months, the Airport has carried 10.1 million passengers, and it is on target to carry about 17 million passengers for the full year. Year-to-date international arriving passengers have increased by 5.1 percent.

Edelweiss Air is a code share partner with Swiss International Air Lines. Edelweiss' Tampa service will offer access to 55 markets beyond Zurich. The Tampa flight will open up significant traffic to convenient one-stop connecting markets beyond Zurich including Frankfurt, Paris, Amsterdam, Rome, Munich, Dublin, Barcelona and Madrid.

VSPC Executive Director D.T. Minich, Executive Director was thrilled to see Edelweiss come to the area. "When we made the pitch to Edelweiss, we showed them that we have been actively marketing our region's award-winning beaches and world-class art and culture in the Swiss market for more than 20 years. Working with Joe Lopano and his team, we know this is the first success of many to come."

Edelweiss Air indicated that its decision to focus on the greater Tampa Bay area was not based just on the advantageous geographic location of Tampa but upon its proximity to Pinellas county's award winning Gulf beaches and cultural attractions. Moreover, it was the great support offered by the greater Tampa Bay business community.