



## ***News Release***

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### **First commercial flight arrives at new Branson Airport**



The Branson Airport, the first privately developed and operated commercial service in the U.S., officially began operations today by welcoming its first commercial flight. Sun Country Airlines with passengers from Minneapolis/St. Paul, touched down at 9 a.m.

To mark the occasion, arriving passengers were presented with gift bags from the Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce & CVB. In addition, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held at the gate area of the new Branson Airport terminal. Those taking part in the ceremony were Branson Airport executives, Sun Country Airlines officials and Branson area dignitaries.

In addition to Minneapolis/St. Paul, Sun Country Airlines will be providing nonstop flights to Dallas.

The second commercial flight to touch down at the airport's 7,140-foot runway was AirTran Airways from Milwaukee, which landed at 11:55 a.m. An official welcoming ceremony was held for this flight as well. AirTran Airways will be providing daily nonstop flights to and from Atlanta and Milwaukee.

Today's activities wrapped up a three-day grand opening extravaganza for the Branson Airport, which included the first ever Branson Air Show. More than 50,000 people attended the

weekend show that featured an impressive list of America's top air show performers, including the USAF Thunderbirds, US Army Golden Knights parachute team, aerobatic teams and much more.

Construction on the airport began in July 2007, and the runway is designed for midsized commercial type aircraft such as the Boeing 737 and 757, but can handle planes as large as the 767. This will enable the airport to receive nonstop air service from anywhere in the continental United States.

The 58,000 square-foot terminal facility offers all the amenities of a full-service airport including restaurant, gift shop, car rental and welcome center.

For more information about the Branson Airport including flights and schedules, visit [www.flybranson.com](http://www.flybranson.com).