



News Release

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Port Authority Purchases New Passenger Lift for Cyril E. King Airport

Virgin Islands Port Authority Executive Director Carlton Dowe announced that VIPA has purchased a new passenger lift to help physically challenged passengers, senior citizens or other passengers with special needs to board or deplane at the Cyril E. King Airport on St. Thomas. The new lift cost \$100,000 and was made available for use by the airlines at CEKA this week. The King Airport now has three passenger lifts. These lifts are necessary as the King Airport Terminal does not have jet bridges and arriving passengers board or deplane via mobile staircases.

The lifts are the property of the Port Authority but are used by the airlines. Dowe met with the airlines at CEKA last week to discuss proper use and maintenance of the machinery. At this meeting, the airline ground handlers alerted him that they have seen a noted increase in the amount of passengers requiring the use of the lifts.

Dowe said, "In the past, we received three to five requests for a passenger lift per day. Today, the airlines have reported to us that they may have as many as seven passengers that need the lift for each airline every day. This lift is a necessity to ensure

that all travelers receive the best possible departure and arrival experience,” said Dowe. He added that VIPA plans to purchase an additional lift in its next budget cycle to adequately meet the increased demand for a passenger lift during peak hours at CEKA.

The Henry E. Rohlsen Airport on St. Croix also has two passenger lifts, which has proven to be adequate based on the requests for the lifts received at HERA, said Dowe.

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Photo above: The new Lift-a-Loft passenger lift was purchased by the Port Authority to assist passengers with special needs to board and disembark airplanes when they arrive at the Cyril E. King Airport on St. Thomas. The lift cost \$100,000.

Photo below: The Cyril E. King Airport now has three passenger lifts. VIPA plans to purchase an additional lift to meet the increased requests for passenger lifts from the airlines at CEKA.

