



News Release

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VIPA to Host Groundbreaking Ceremony for New HERA Fire Station

Virgin Islands Port Authority Executive Director Carlton Dowe announced that the Authority will host a groundbreaking ceremony to commemorate the construction of the new Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighter (ARFF) facility at the Henry E. Rohlsen Airport (HERA) on St. Croix. The ceremony will be held on Friday, Jan. 22 at 12:30 p.m. at the Rohlsen Airport.

The new 12,000-square-foot fire station will feature modern firefighting equipment and accommodations for the fire fighters. It will replace the existing fire station, which has been in deplorable condition for several years. “This is an important project for St. Croix. The Rohlsen Airport will receive a significant improvement, and the project will employ residents on St. Croix during the construction phase,” said Dowe. Mobilization of the construction work will begin on Jan. 25 and work will commence immediately, he said.

VIPA received a Federal Aviation Administration Grant in the amount of \$6,870,128 (of which \$2,575,084 was discretionary funds). The total cost of the project is \$7,182,801, and the remainder will be funded by the Port Authority. The FAA had stopped discretionary funding for the Rohlsen Airport in 2002 due to issues regarding the closure of the Anguilla Landfill which have since been resolved, Dowe said. This grant marks the third year in a row that HERA has received discretionary funding – a remarkable accomplishment by the Port Authority’s employees and the Waste Management Authority, Dowe said.

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