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## **Antalya Airport Could Overtake Istanbul: About 10 Million International Passengers Expected in 2002**

*Frankfurt, Germany (ots) -*

The tourist season on the Turkish Riviera is off to a good start, with passenger figures for the showcase airport in the Antalya region developing above plan. The new terminal - in which Fraport AG Frankfurt Airport Services Worldwide acquired a 50-percent share in autumn 1999 - is expected to reach about 10 million international passengers in 2002, for the first time.

Antalya Airport (airport code = AYT) served 4.2 million international passengers in 1999. In 2000, traffic jumped to 6.6 million passengers. This previous record was exceeded in 2001 when Antalya Airport welcomed 8.7 million international passengers. Istanbul Airport which Antalya Airport will likely overtake this year, recorded only 100,000 more passengers in 2001. Fraport AG's Andreas Stark, who is one of the two general managers of the Antalya international terminal and who is responsible for finance, also expects Antalya Airport to join the league of the world's Top 100 largest airports.

Fraport AG and its Turkish partner Bayindir Group have the concession for the Antalya terminal until 2007. By that time, a second runway (now under construction) will have been in operation for some years and traffic could grow to 15 million passengers per year. Inaugurated in 1998, the Antalya international terminal will begin to reach its capacity limits by 2007.

Thus, a second terminal linked to the existing international terminal is already being considered. The Fraport/Bayindir company that ensures smooth running operations of Antalya's international terminal therefore has excellent references for this new terminal project. A second terminal will greatly enhance tourism in the entire Antalya region.

For more information about travel and tourism in Turkey, visit the Internet at: "[www.tourism.gov.tr](http://www.tourism.gov.tr)" in English, German and Turkish. The Turkish National Tourist Office in Germany (Staatliches Türkisches Fremdenverkehrsamt) is based in Frankfurt at: Baseler Strasse 35, 60329 Frankfurt; Tel.: +49 69 233081; Fax: +49 69 232751.

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