

(English Translation)

Government chooses land for airport in Southern Zone

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The Government has chosen land located five kilometers North of Sierpe, in Osa, Puntarenas, to construct a new Southern Zone International airport.

A study conducted by the Main directorate of Civil Aviation and the international consultant Guillermo Alvarez confirmed the selected property in Sierpe is free of obstacles and has additional land available to support the construction phase.

The feasibility study confirmed other findings that had been carried out in the 2005 by the Department of Civil Aviation, that also chose this property as the most suitable one for the project, after analyzing other places in South Palmar and Boundary 47, among several others.

Viviana Martin, president of the Technical Council of Aviación Civil (CTAC), said that the land belongs to the Institute of Agrarian Development (IDA) and is preparing an agreement that allows the use of the property for the new airport.

Martin confirmed that after the ratification of the contracts for the land and the airspace, the Organization the International of Aviación Civil (OACI) will create an elaborate master plan for the airport.

That plan will include a new survey of the quality of the ground for additional infrastructure, as well as runways projections, according to the necessities of tourism development for the area.

In addition to that plan, the CTAC will evaluate the ecological impact in the zone with the new terminal.

Project. The President of the CTAC hopes that by the end of this year the master plan of the airport in Sierpe will be completed. Shortly thereafter the plans will be analyzed to begin the construction bids.

The Government has not yet decided if it will finance the new terminal and the runway with its resources, or creates an Request for Proposal (RFP) so that a private company could construct and manage the airport.

“Our objective is that before 2010 the new airport will be open for International flights”, said Martin.

The original article can be found at: http://www.nacion.com/In_ee/2007/marzo/29/economia1046736.html