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## **Paine Field Celebrates First Year of Passenger Service**

SEATTLE (March 5, 2020) — Paine Field’s passenger terminal celebrated its one-year anniversary of service yesterday, capping off a year of nonstop success for the terminal since the inaugural flight on March 4, 2019. In that time, the award-winning terminal has welcomed over a million passengers, received global recognition for its unique design and superior amenities, and provided a convenient travel alternative for travelers in the Puget Sound region and enormous economic benefits to local communities.

“This airport began with an idea – that with some hard work and the right partners, we could bring civility back to air travel,” said **Brett Smith, CEO of Propeller Airports**, which designed, financed, and built the terminal through a public-private partnership with Snohomish County. “Today, we’re very proud that passengers are benefiting from that ideal every day. The past year has been such a success because of the incredible passion and enthusiasm brought to the table by our partner airlines, the entire airport staff, local government and business leaders and, most importantly, our customers.”

Paine Field has distinguished itself with best-in-class service and unique amenities like bespoke food and beverage offerings by Beecher’s Handmade Cheese and Café Vita and convenient services like valet parking. Over the past year, 8,561 flights have departed to 11 non-stop destinations, over 130,000 cars have been parked and more than 1,022,046 passengers served.

Paine Field was recently named one of *USA Today’s* [10 Best Small Airports](#), and previously received recognition from *Monocle Magazine* as the [World’s Best Regional Airport](#) and the National Council for Public-Private Partnerships for [Outstanding Project Innovation](#) in 2019.

Planning for the passenger terminal began in 2014, when Propeller entered discussions with Snohomish County about a partnership to build a commercial facility at the county airport – originally built to serve as the Seattle region’s major commercial passenger airport but later requisitioned by the Army Air Corps for military use during World War II. After the war, and the construction of Sea-Tac farther south, the Boeing Company took over the airfield for the development of one of the most iconic airliners in history, the 747. Paine Field remains a major assembly and repair facility for much of Boeing’s wide-body fleet today.

The partnership that led to the passenger terminal took shape in 2015, using many of the principles learned from some of Europe’s most successful commercial airports in cities like Zurich, Paris, Frankfurt, and London. Groundbreaking took place in June of 2017, with the first passengers departing on Alaska Airlines Flight 2878 to Portland, OR. Paine Field is now serviced by Alaska and United Airlines with 24 daily nonstop departures to 11 major west coast cities, with a 12<sup>th</sup> destination to be added in June of this year.

“I want to offer a hearty congratulations to Propeller Airports and our Paine Field airport staff on a very successful first year of operations. The terminal has very quickly become an important part of Snohomish County. This amazing terminal is a hallmark of collaboration between the public and private sectors,” said **Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive**.

“We are very happy about the success of our partnership with Propeller and the airlines. It has been a very exciting period in Paine Field’s history, and judging by passenger numbers it has been a great example of a successful public/private partnership,” said **Arif Ghouse, Director of Snohomish County Paine Field Airport**.

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#### **About Propeller Airports**

Based in Everett, WA, Propeller identifies untapped potential for commercial air travel by working with local communities and government to maximize airport assets. Propeller Airports is focused on opportunities to invest, develop and manage both general aviation and commercial service airports throughout the U.S. For more information please visit [www.flypainefield.com](http://www.flypainefield.com).