Construction is scheduled to begin soon on the Orlando International Airport’s (MCO) new South Terminal Complex, a $1.8 billion milestone expansion project that will encompass approximately 300 acres and 2.7 million square feet. The Greater Orlando Aviation Authority (GOAA) Board unanimously approved the multi-year construction and enhancement plan that will improve operational efficiency, accommodate future growth and expand accessibility.

“Today's travelers to Central Florida demand a memorable experience, so it is essential that we strive to stay at the forefront of design, innovation, customer care and improved connectivity,” says Greater Orlando Aviation Authority Executive Director Phil Brown. “Our challenge is to provide state-of-the-art services and facilities at an affordable cost.”

The size and scope of this dynamic project continue a tradition of new building construction to meet the demand that began when the facilities opened in 1981. This project will offer an opportunity for Central Florida’s small businesses to participate in the construction and design elements. GOAA has a robust, 30-year relationship with small businesses in the community and is committed to awarding more contracts. In 2014, GOAA awarded $100 million in small business construction contracts.

GOAA’s Small Business Program is generating participation and awareness on the project within the small business community around Central Florida, and how they will play a role in the project’s success. Brown says the record-selling passenger demand is driving the expansion, as over 42 million passengers were reported at MCO last year, a figure that is expected to grow annually.

The design phase, led by Fentress Architects, HNTB and Schenkel Shultz, is nearly two-thirds complete. Once the final design benchmarks are met, groundbreaking on the terminal is scheduled to begin with a completion date of 2020.

The new terminal layout will include 16 gates with a flexible configuration to accommodate both domestic and international flights, with space allowing for narrow body, jumbo and super jumbo aircraft. A 6-story, 5,000-space parking garage will also be available for passengers.

The timeless designs also depict a top-level customer arrival experience, where passengers are drawn from one area to another, creating an exciting and memorable arrival into Orlando. Brown says this signature experience will leave a lasting impression on visitors.

“We are looking to create a new gateway for Orlando, one that captures the essence of what makes Central Florida special and enhances The Orlando Experience®,” added Brown.

The Boulevard, a state-of-the-art, multimedia technology corridor that runs the length of the terminal and connects the major pedestrian areas, will include new concession locations and a baggage handling system that will be outfitted with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology to track luggage from departure to arrival. These new technological communication and convenience resources say airport executives, will enhance the airport’s trademark customer service experience for visitors.

“The South Terminal project is designed with passengers in mind, creating an experience unlike any other airport,” Brown stated. “We anticipate that when the terminal is completed, visitors will marvel and appreciate the thoughtful design and amenities at were added to make their travel plans smoother.”

Construction on two other airport projects continues. The South Airport Automated People Mover (APM), a 7,500-foot, dual-lane guideway, will transport passengers between the North and South complexes. The International Terminal Facility (ITF) will accommodate three rail systems: the high-speed passenger rail Brightline, the SunRail commuter rail, and a proposed light rail. Both the APM and ITF projects are expected to be completed by early 2018.

Phil Brown is executive director of the Orlando International Airport.
Q & A with George Morning: What every small business owner should know about opportunities on the new South Terminal Complex.

Q. What kinds of locally-owned firms are you targeting for the new South Terminal Project?
A. We’re looking for certified small businesses in construction and related fields. GOAA wants to make this project as inclusive as possible for our small, locally-owned companies, including those owned by minorities, women, and service-disabled veterans.

Q. What type of skilled services are you seeking?
A. This is a huge project that will encompass 300 acres and more than 2.7 million square feet for the airside terminal, a six-story parking garage, and more. GOAA will need support in all related services. These services include: carpentry, drywall, masonry, welding, lighting, framing, woodworking, sheet metal, electrical, plumbing, ironworks, HVAC, plaster, paint, flooring, and general skilled construction labor.

Q. What is the process for certification with GOAA?
A. Small business can be certified with GOAA as an MWBE, LDB and/or SDVOB. Certifications should be completed online at www.GOAA.diversitycompliance.com. If a company is certified as an MWBE with the City of Orlando, Orange County Government or certified as a DBE with the State of Florida, Office of Supplier Diversity, that certification can be used for bidding purposes.

Q. What is the criteria for certification?
A. All firms should be certified as small businesses with GOAA. In addition, firms that are owned by minorities and women that wish to be considered under M/WBE (Minority Women Business Enterprises), LDB (Local Developing Business), or SDVOBE (Service Disabled Veteran Owned Business Enterprise) regulations should be certified prior to submitting a GOAA bid. Details on obtaining a small business certification through GOAA are available on our website, www.orlandoairports.net/small_business.

Q. How do interested companies get involved?
A. Beginning in June 2017, GOAA will begin conducting a vigorous outreach program to identify, educate and involve as many small companies as possible. Up to date information on any construction project and/or solicitation on the south terminal project may be found at any of the following:

- Turner website and contact information: www.tkgoaa.com, Victor Perry, 954-635-3181
- GOAA Small Business Website and contact information: www.orlandoairports.net, 407-825-7133
- Small Business App – download from Google Play and Apple’s App Store

GOAA is also sharing information with elected commissioners in Orange, Seminole, Osceola and Lake Counties, and the City of Orlando. Your elected officials can provide up-to-date information on the project.

Q. What's the timeline for the bidding process?
A. The bidding process will be on-going through the length of the South Terminal construction. It basically follows this schedule: we issue a solicitation, hold a pre-bid meeting, receive proposals from vendors, evaluate those proposals, and then award a contract. This process can take a minimum of 30 to 60 days, start to finish, for each solicitation.

George Morning is director of the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority’s Small Business Development Department and heads the effort to recruit small business participations in airport projects such as the South Terminal C-Phase 1.
From his firm’s corporate headquarters in Parramore, Bob Burns can see his work has redefined the skyline of Central Florida.

R L Burns started a small, minority-owned business in 1994 specializing in pre-construction planning, general construction, and construction. Today, the firm employs 26 people, including Burns’ daughter, Jessica, who is a company vice president, and April McIntosh, vice president of construction and operations manager of construction projects.

For more than 23 years, R L Burns has completed over 300 projects in the public and private sectors, across Orlando and Florida. The company's first major project was the $1 million renovation of Walt Disney World’s Fort Wilderness Resort campground, earning the firm high acclaim for on time and budget performance.

When economic turmoil over the years forced Burns to reassess the company's business plan and expand into different industries, he never wavered from his commitment to prioritizing the client's interests first and delivering quality work. The firm relocated its corporate offices from the Disney area to Parramore and pursued multi-year contracts with the City of Orlando and Orange County. R L Burns was selected as the first minority-owned business to work on the new Amway Center and later was hired to work on two other Community Venues projects.

When R L Burns expanded into aviation, they secured multiple contracts with GOAA on the North Terminal projects and was selected as a continuing contractor through a competitive process. Now with the South Terminal project underway, Burns says it was a natural progression for his firm to continue its relationship with the airport and grow their business.

“We consider Orlando International Airport our home,” he says.

The company is handling preconstruction estimating on the expansion, and once pricing and the budget are approved, Burns plans to hire additional staff for the construction phase, targeting highly skilled workers and college graduates in Orlando who are seeking job placement.

While the road to becoming one of Orlando's most successful African-American businesses was paved with hard work and client-focus, Burns also credits the innovative thinking by community stakeholders that served as a catalyst for the success of small minority and women-owned businesses in the area. He sees the same level of commitment with GOAA's Small Business Development Department.

“When community stakeholders embrace programs that support small businesses, especially minority owners, it is a tremendous benefit to the community. That is why the South Terminal project will be a success for our area.” He encourages other small business owners to step up and seek opportunities with GOAA, understanding the level of commitment and resources required to work on a large-scale project.

Bob Burns, CEO/President of R L Burns Inc., and has worked on GOAA projects for 23 years.
By Victor Perry, Turner/Kiewit Program Manager

The Greater Orlando Aviation Authority (GOAA), in partnership with Turner/Kiewit (TK), supports programs that encourage the participation of small businesses in the airport contracting process. With the recent approval of the vision and design of the South Terminal Complex (STC) and authorization by GOAA’s board to begin construction, the $1.8 billion STC project is firmly underway and gaining momentum daily. Our company has a long history and is passionate about enabling the development of local small businesses and promoting the available opportunities on the construction project with qualified contractors. One of the ways we are committed to small business development is through our Construction Management training sessions, hosted by the Turner School of Construction Management in Orlando each year. Many of our graduates are small contractors who are eager to learn how to grow their businesses and participate with our company on large-scale projects, such as the South Terminal project.

We pride ourselves on providing construction solutions on large projects such as the Orlando International Airport, and we rely on quality subcontractors to complete a project of this magnitude. We place a high value on hiring small businesses that are minority-owned, service-disabled, veteran-owned, and women-owned businesses.

Focusing on cultivating a diverse supplier base is advantageous for business on many levels. By partnering with small, locally-owned businesses, we add value to our construction projects while investing in local economic growth and development throughout Central Florida. We find that when we partner with subcontractors with different experiences, perspectives and backgrounds we receive creative, flexible, innovative, and cost-effective services and an array of skill sets.

The scope of the South Terminal Complex is extensive. Our firm, along with GOAA’s Small Business Development Department, is prepared to partner with hundreds of small businesses over the next few years. Orlando International Airport continues to break passenger records, necessitating an increase in the airport’s capacity and services and creating urgency for the construction management team to find excellent partners. This project will include:

- The South Terminal Complex and associated apron/taxiway that encompasses approximately 300 acres and 2.7 million square feet
- Landside terminal with new security checkpoints, federal inspection service, and passenger ticketing
- Airside terminal serving international and domestic flights
- 16 gates accommodating narrow body, jumbo, and super jumbo aircraft
- Baggage handling system
- 6-story, 5,000-space expanded parking garage
- Civil improvements over 90 acres

For local small businesses, the Orlando International Airport project offers many opportunities including, but not limited to, the following:

- Concrete Formwork
- Concrete Placing
- Concrete Reinforcing
- Concrete Supply
- Daily Clean
- Demolition
- Document Reproduction
- Earthwork
- Medical Supplies
- Office Furniture
- Office Supplies
- Safety
- Signage
- Site Security
- Temporary Fencing
- Temporary/Construction Toilet Facilities
- Trailer Complex
- Trucking
- Utilities
- Waste Hauling
- Survey/Layout
- Baggage Handling Systems
- Doors/Frames/Hardware
- Drywall and Framing
- Electrical
- Fire Protection
- Floor Finishes
- Glass and Glazing
- Mechanical/HVAC
- Metal Panels
- Millwork
- Miscellaneous metals
- Ornamental Metals
- Ornamental Metals
- Painting
- Passenger Boarding Bridges
- Plumbing
- Precast
- Roofing
- Rough Carpentry
- Signage
- Special Systems
- Specialties
- Structural Steel
- Vertical Circulation
- Wall finishes
- Waterproofing/Sealants

GOAA’s Small Business Development Department is an excellent resource for small local businesses that are interested in pursuing these opportunities. For more information on how to qualify as a small business and pursue available sub-contractor opportunities, visit the SBDD’s webpage, www.orlandoairports.net/small_business. We look forward to working with you.