



**Media Release: April 1, 2005
For Immediate Release**

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Williams Gateway Airport Builds New Fuel Storage Facility

MESA, ARIZ. --- Williams Gateway Airport is completing construction of a new \$2.2 million aviation fuel storage facility. The new 162,000-gallon facility is scheduled to open by July, 2005, and will replace the existing 50,000-gallon storage system.

The Airport Authority began selling aviation fuel in 1996, pumping approximately 990,000 gallons in Fiscal Year 1998. Each year fuel volumes have significantly increased. In Fiscal Year 2004, the Airport Authority sold over 5.6 million gallons.

“The facility the Airport Authority has been using was originally built by the Air Force for automotive fuel storage,” said Executive Director Lynn Kusy. “We converted them to Jet-A tanks and have been using them ever since. However, as the Airport has become busier, we have outgrown the facility’s capacity.”

Fuel sales are only one indicator of the Airport’s growth. The Airport also has posted record numbers of landings, takeoffs, and jobs this past year as well.

Earlier this week, the Airport accommodated several large cargo aircraft, including several U.S. Air Force C-17s and a Ukrainian Antonov 124-100, one of the largest planes in the world. This activity resulted in the Airport pumping a record 145,000 gallons in just three days.

The Airport is owned and operated by the Williams Gateway Airport Authority, which includes the Gila River Indian Community, Gilbert, Mesa and Queen Creek. For more information, visit www.flywga.org.