

## Keystone Field Services Selected as a "Top 10" Winner of IRWA's 2010 "Project of the Year" Competition

Panama City, October 6, 2010 – Keystone Field Services' project, The Relocation of the Panama City International Airport to West Bay, and its reopening as the new Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport, won "Top 10" ranking in the International Right of Way Association's (IRWA) 2010 "Project of the Year" Competition.

The ranking among the top 10 was awarded to Keystone Field Services for delivering the most aggressive and successful airport relocation program in the country. The accelerated acquisition and relocation program was completed in record time, and ensured the fair and equitable treatment of over 300 displaced airport interests. By ensuring the on-schedule opening of the new airport, the program was vital to the success of the Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport.

A \$310 million dollar airport project with over \$93 million in federal funding was well under construction, when Keystone's experts were called to evaluate the Airport Authority's compliance with the Federal Uniform Relocation Act (the URA). *"Keystone assured the Airport Authority's continuing eligibility for federal funding and compliance with the URA. They ensured the timely closure of the old airport, and the on-schedule opening of the new Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport, the first publicly funded airport built in the United States to incorporate security requirements resulting from 9/11, and the first publicly funded airport built in this country in 15 years" said Randy Curtis, Executive Director of the Panama City – Bay County Airport and Industrial District.* 

Keystone's Airport Relocation Project was the only Airport infrastructure project selected in September by a panel of industry experts. *"We are thrilled our project ranked among the Top 10"* noted Keystone Field Services President Jan Rybak-Matalon SR/WA. *"The Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport is considered the "gateway" to Northwest Florida's economic future. This monumental project will propel the region's economy and transform the community by supporting opportunities for job growth, marketplace competition and industry expansion. We take great pride in supporting such an important transformation and making it a reality."* 

The capacity to enable a seamless transition from the old airport to the new airport, and bring this landmark project into compliance with Federal regulations in such a short period of time exists because of the unique expertise that Keystone's right of way professionals brought to the project. "Keystone made the on-schedule opening of the new Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport possible. We are excited this important endeavor was recognized as a "top 10" winner by the IRWA" said Janet Watermeier, executive director of the Bay County Economic Development Alliance. "The Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport with its 10,000 foot runway, new terminal and 1,400 acres for future development, surrounded by West Bay, one of the nation's largest master-planned communities, are together creating a new regional economic center. Business Facilities magazine ranked the Panama City-Lynn Haven-Panama City Beach MSA as the Top Metro Area for Economic Growth Potential, surpassing cities such as Greenville, SC, Newport News, VA and Knoxville, TN. With the dynamic collection of economic assets our community is better poised for business growth and connectivity to the world. We recognize Keystone's contribution to this success, and congratulate them on this important award."

Florida's Governor Charlie Crist has called the new airport a *"national model for economical transportation and environmental preservation."* He further states that *"Florida's economy thrives on projects and initiatives that strengthen our always-expanding tourism industry."* Florida, and particularly coastal Florida, have been hit hard by the recession and then by the oil spill in the gulf. The relocation of the airport and the growth opportunities it will create are an essential part of the recovery, and a huge source of optimism for the entire region.

Keystone Field Services is recognized as a trusted advisor and expert on the Federal Uniform Relocation Act. The Airport Relocation Project demonstrates the company's continuing success in fostering innovation and creativity in the delivery of "outside-the-box," cost-effective and timely right of way, land acquisition and relocation solutions.

## About Keystone Field Services, Inc.

Keystone is a proven leader in the execution of accelerated right of way land acquisition and relocation projects implemented under the provisions of the Uniform Relocation and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (URA), Public Law 91-646, as amended. Keystone's principals and staff are experts in the implementation of URA regulations found in 49 CFR Part 24 (Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 24 - Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition for Federal and Federally Assisted Programs; FAA Order 5100.37B - Land Acquisition and Relocation Assistance for Airport Projects; FAA Land Acquisition and Relocation Assistance for Airport Programs (AIP) Assisted Projects – Advisory Circular 150/5100-17; and in implementing HUD Section 104(d) programs.

Keystone's client list includes federal, state, county and municipal governments, airport authorities, water management districts, redevelopment authorities, public and private utilities, telecommunication companies, pipeline companies, and engineering firms. The company is certified by a number of agencies as a *Woman Owned Business Enterprise/Disadvantaged Business Enterprise.* To learn more about Keystone Field Services, visit <u>www.keystonefs.com</u> or call 850-877-7185.

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