

Announcement

Invitation for Investors Wishing to Obtain a National Low-Cost Air Carrier License at King Fahd International Airport in Dammam

The General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia invites all interested investors to apply for a public tender for a National Low-Cost Air Carrier License to operate domestic and international flights from King Fahd International Airport in Dammam.

First: Those wishing to apply for this competition must submit the following information:

- Full name of the investor(s).
- Head office of the proposed entity.
- Contact information for the designated person (name, address, phone number, and email address).
- A detailed description of the proposed ownership, the structure of the board of directors, and the proposed schedule of powers for the new national air carrier - taking into consideration the citizenship requirements in accordance with the economic regulations regulating the air transport sector in the Kingdom and all other relevant regulations and decisions.
- Proof of solvency to meet expected startup financing requirements.
- A detailed description of the entity's previous experience in the civil aviation sector detailing the following: field of experience, number of years of experience, size of operations, including previous experience in the air transport industry in general (if any).
- Financial statements for the last five consecutive operating years of the entity.
- A summary of all safety breaches or fatal accidents relating to the entire scope of air transportation operations.

Second: Pre-qualification criteria for obtaining a National Low-Cost Air Carrier License at King Fahd International Airport in Dammam:

Category/ Sub-Category	Description
1. Ability to comply with licensing criteria	
Ownership	<p>Applicants must provide a detailed description of the proposed ownership, the structure of the Board of Directors and the proposed management and delegation of authority for the new national air carrier, corporation or association organized under the laws of the Kingdom where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The chief executive officer and at least two-thirds of the board of directors and other key personnel are citizens of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.- At least fifty-one percent (51%) of the voting interest is owned or controlled by persons that are citizens of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.- The corporation or association is effectively owned and controlled by citizens of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
Financial standing and liquidity	<p>Applicants must provide evidence of sources of funds to meet the expected funding start-up requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Externally audited financial statements for the last five consecutive years of operation for the entity; or,- Bank certificate proving the financial solvency of the entity.
2. Credentials and past experience	
Type and extent of aviation experience	<p>Applicants must provide a detailed description of the entity's previous experience in the civil aviation sector detailing the following: field of experience, number of years of experience, size of operations, previous experience in the air transport industry in general (if any).</p>
Annual turnover (SAR)	<p>Applicants must provide annual turnover for the past five years of operations (where available).</p>
Safety compliance	<p>Applicants must provide a summary of all safety breaches or fatal accidents relating to the entire scope of air transportation operations (Letter of Safety performance and compliance report issued by the respective Civil Aviation Authority).</p>

Third: The General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) aims to facilitate the license issuance for a National Low-Cost Air Carrier License at King Fahd International Airport in Dammam to:

- Raise the level of competitiveness in the and enhance the quality of services provided to passengers.
- Achieve the objectives of the Saudi Aviation Strategy in the air transport sector, including raising passenger numbers to reach 330 million passengers per annum and increasing the number of destinations to more than 250 international destinations by 2030.

Fourth: The investor who is awarded the National Low-Cost Air Carrier License shall be granted the following benefits:

- Freedom to choose domestic route points from King Fahd International Airport in Dammam to other airports in the Kingdom.
- Operating international flights from King Fahd International Airport in Dammam in accordance with international bilateral agreements signed by the General Authority of Civil Aviation in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Pre-qualification Applications should be sent to the General Authority of Civil Aviation through an official letter and via e-mail (AIRLINERFP@gaca.gov.sa) in **PDF or Word format**. Applications may also be submitted through the Administrative Communications Department at the headquarters of the General Authority of Civil Aviation no later than **19/11/1444 AH**, corresponding to 08/06/2023 AD, addressed to the Economic Policies and Logistics Sector (**Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, P.O Box 47360 Riyadh 11552**).

GACA will provide applicants who have passed the pre-qualification phase with a (**Request For Proposal**) document, which includes detailed information on the post-qualification criteria, all requirements for obtaining a new National Low-Cost Air Carrier License at King Fahd International Airport in Dammam, and all technical requirements necessary for operation, in addition to data related to airports, air transport and traffic volume.

The competition will be awarded to only one national low-cost carrier, selected according to the post-qualification criteria.