

Spaceport business development at island in Okinawa

『 Shimoji-shima, the Gate for Space 』

Basic agreement with Okinawa Prefecture for the first manned space tourism hub in Asia

PD AeroSpace, LTD. (Japan, CEO: Shuji Ogawa), announces plans to develop the spaceport business at Shimoji-shima airport (the southern part of Japan). In parallel, the business will work on spaceplane development to realize manned space tourism.



Image : MITSUBISHI ESTATE CO., LTD.



Images of Shimoji-shima space port

Okinawa Prefecture, the administrator of Shimoji-shima airport, was offered proposals for business plans from private companies in 2017. PD AeroSpace (PDAS) proposed the business and Okinawa Prefecture accepted the proposal, finalizing the basic agreement on September 10th, 2020.

Shimoji-shima airport has high potential as a space port. The airport has a 3,000 m long runway, advanced air traffic control functions and the training flight area is located near the airport. Moreover, the airport is in the center of eastern Asia, allowing space tourists to access it from a wide geographical region.

PDAS plans to develop the following three businesses in addition to spaceplane flight testing :

1. Tenant business (Hangar rentals for spaceplane operators)
2. Training program business for space tourists (Zero G, High G, medical check)
3. Tourism business (Entertainment in space port)

PDAS also plans to establish the "Shimoji-shima spaceport business consortium" in the near future. Companies which are interested can join this consortium, expanding their business gradually together. PDAS will cooperate with local organizations including Okinawa Prefectural government and Miyako-jima City Office. PDAS wishes the business to contribute to the development of Miyako-jima, Okinawa.

With various partners, PDAS aims to realize not only a space development base in Japan, but also to establish a hub for the development of various businesses.

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