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## **Darwin International Airport's impressive new facility partners with local and national export specialists**

A joint venture between local and national exporters and Darwin International Airport's \$15 million multipurpose training, freight and cold storage facility was announced today.

National export specialist Pakfresh Handling Pty Ltd has joined forces with local companies Wyuna Coldstores and GR Wills, to sign on as the first tenants of the soon-to-be-opened facility.

The 6250 square metre facility includes a vapour heat treatment (VHT) plant and will enable up to 18 tonnes of Territory mangoes to be exported daily to markets across Asia by plane. The facility has X-ray and security scanning capabilities and is proposed to have airside access.

NT Airports Chief Executive Officer Tony Edmondstone said the multipurpose facility, which is the largest of its kind in the Territory, would provide a much-needed boost to the Northern Territory economy, once operational.

"This facility is a game changer for the Territory and will play an integral role in providing opportunities for local exporters to target Asian markets and increase their capabilities," Mr Edmondstone said.

"It is also an important step in our plans to develop the Darwin International Airport precinct to enable future growth and support manufacturing services."

The facility is expected to be completed in September this year, with full operation to begin in October 2020.

Wyuna Coldstores Managing Director Mark McKenzie said this was a great opportunity for the Territory to bring together national and local experience in handling and supply chain management.

"We are very excited to partner with Pakfresh Handling and bring our local knowledge – together with their wide experience – in what is a first for the Territory," Mr McKenzie said.

"We see this facility as a critical step in supporting growing local industries in horticulture, seafood and beef."

Pakfresh Handling Managing Director Nathan Bevan said Pakfresh is looking forward to expanding their business into the Territory.

"Pakfresh is excited by the opportunity of expanding our national footprint into the Northern Territory. We look forward to sharing our expertise developed through working with numerous regional airports and their stakeholders."

The export hub is part of a proposed \$300 million expansion of NT Airports' facilities in Darwin, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek, supported by the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF) loan.

Around 200 jobs have been created through construction of the facility, with 500 indirect jobs expected to be supported through the supply chain, and over 150 new jobs for the future multipurpose training, freight and cold storage facility.

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### **About NT Airports**

*Northern Territory Airports Pty Ltd owns Darwin International Airport, Alice Springs Airport and Tennant Creek Airport. Airport Development Group (ADG) is the parent company of the group.*

*ADG is almost entirely owned by superannuation funds through two Australian companies: IFM Investors (77.4%) and Palisade Investment Partners Limited (22.6%). Membership of these superannuation funds include almost 70,000 Territorians.*

*As one of the NT's largest employers, we employ over 80 full-time employees and contract many other personnel to provide key airport services. Together with our airline customers, we handled over 2.4 million arriving, departing and transit passengers, and the combination of all of the on airport and off- airport businesses that support them contribute over 1.5% of the Gross State Product of the Northern Territory. We employ over 1600 people when including our airline customers.*

*Our website is [darwinairport.com.au](http://darwinairport.com.au)*