



The Maryland Port Administration PRESS RELEASE

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GOVERNOR EHRLICH OPENS NEW PASSENGER CRUISE TERMINAL AT THE PORT OF BALTIMORE

More Accessible, Dedicated Facility Will Provide Better Passenger Experience

BALTIMORE, MD --- Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., today kicked off the 2006 cruise season in Maryland in a big way by opening the state's new \$13 million cruise terminal at Maryland's Port of Baltimore. Located next to I-95 at South Locust Point, the new easy-access dedicated cruise facility will operate as a full-time passenger cruise terminal. The 60,000 square foot, temperature controlled building is situated on 14 acres of land adjacent to I-95. On-site parking is available for 500 vehicles and passenger drop-off and pick-up areas are located right at the terminal's front door.

"This new facility is an investment in Maryland's economy," said Governor Ehrlich. "With cruising out of the Port of Baltimore now more convenient and customer friendly, we can continue to grow this key element of our dynamic tourism industry. That means more jobs for Maryland citizens and more money flowing into Maryland businesses."

The annual economic impact of the cruise industry in Maryland is \$50 million. The 2005 cruise season produced more than 270 direct jobs, including ground operations, transportation, security, and labor. More than 122,000 passengers cruised from Baltimore last year.

During the 2006 season, 30 cruises are scheduled to depart from the new terminal destined for Bermuda and the Caribbean. This schedule includes 28 direct-departure cruises from Baltimore and two port calls. The first cruise will depart Friday, May 12 when Royal Caribbean's *Grandeur of the Seas* leaves Baltimore for a nine-night excursion to the Caribbean. Additional cruises may be added during the season. In 2007, Royal Caribbean will offer additional cruises from Baltimore to Canada, New England, and the eastern Caribbean.

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“Royal Caribbean is extremely pleased with the beautiful new terminal at Maryland’s Port of Baltimore,” said John Fox, vice president of Global Government and Community Relations. “*Grandeur of the Seas* will enjoy her new home and undoubtedly attract more cruise vacationers from the Mid-Atlantic region. We look forward to our Baltimore sailings this summer to Bermuda and the western Caribbean, and next summer to Canada, New England, and the eastern Caribbean.”

The dedicated facility is a major step forward for the cruise operation at Maryland’s Port of Baltimore. In the past, temporary cruise buildings located on the Dundalk Marine Terminal were also used, at times, for cargo operations. The new cruise facility is separated from the industrial activity at Dundalk and Seagirt Marine terminals and has its own direct access from I-95. It is 2.5 miles from downtown Baltimore, 10 miles from BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport, 20 miles from Annapolis, and 40 miles from Washington, DC.

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