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San Diego International Airport's Terminal 1 Receives National Design-Build Award

Terminal 1 recognized among the nation's leading design-build projects in aviation

SAN DIEGO, CA — September 24, 2026 – San Diego International Airport's (SAN) New Terminal 1 has received the Design-Build Institute of America's (DBIA) 2026 National Design-Build Project/Team Merit Award in the Aviation category.

Terminal 1 was selected by a jury of design-build professionals as one of 32 projects recognized across 10 categories from 80 submissions nationwide. The award recognizes excellence in design-build delivery, highlighting projects that bring owners, architects, engineers and contractors together to solve complex challenges and deliver innovative results.

"We are very proud that Terminal 1 has received this national recognition," said Atif Saeed, President and CEO of the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority. "We are grateful to our design-build team for its collaboration and commitment to delivering a world-class terminal. This award recognizes the collective expertise and innovation that made this project possible."

"Behind every award-winning project is an exceptional design-build team," DBIA Executive Director/CEO Lisa Washington, CAE, said. "The people behind these projects demonstrate what can be achieved when expertise and ingenuity are paired with a shared commitment to excellence. Their work shows design-build at its best, bringing people together to drive innovation and deliver better outcomes that create lasting value for Owners and the communities they serve."

Merit winners will be recognized and additional winners announced at [DBIA's Design-Build Conference & Expo](#) Awards Ceremony November 5, 2026. For a full list of project winners, including photos and descriptions of each project, please visit [DBIA's Project/Team Awards page](#).

For more information about SAN's New Terminal 1, please visit san.org.

ABOUT SAN DIEGO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (SAN)

Owned and operated by the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, San Diego International Airport (SAN) is one of the region's most important civic assets, serving more than 25 million passengers each year as the community's gateway to the world and contributing nearly \$12 billion annually to the local economy. Conveniently located minutes from Downtown San Diego, SAN is the busiest single-runway airport in North America and the third-largest airport in California, with service to nearly 90 destinations around the globe, including 11 nonstops to Europe, Latin America, Canada, and Asia. In 2025, the Authority opened the first phase of the new Terminal 1, a more efficient facility recently recognized as one of the most beautiful airport terminals in the world. When the new Terminal 1 is fully completed in 2028, it will have generated more than \$4.5 billion for San Diego's economy and created more than 25,000 jobs, paying a total of \$2 billion in wages to local workers. The Authority's continued investment in the airport experience strengthens San Diego's global competitiveness while delivering lasting value for the community.

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