

## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **TAMPA AIRPORT MARRIOTT BECOMES FIRST MARRIOTT IN FLORIDA TO RECEIVE TWO PALM STATUS IN FLORIDA DEP'S GREEN LODGING PROGRAM One of Only 33 Hotels Statewide**

**Tampa, FL – March 3, 2009** – The eco-savvy, 296-room Tampa Airport Marriott is the first Marriott hotel in Florida and one of only 33 hotels statewide to receive the distinguished Two Palm status in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Green Lodging Program.

The voluntary state initiative provides the lodging industry with free technical assistance, encouraging hotels and motels to adopt cost-saving "green" practices that reduce waste, conserve natural resources and improve the bottom line. Facilities can achieve up to three levels of green within the Florida *Green Lodging* Program ranging from One Palm to Three Palm based on increased reductions in waste, water and energy consumption.

*"I am proud of our staff's commitment to reduce our footprint on the environment and we will continue to hold ourselves accountable at every turn,"* stated Tampa Airport Marriott General Manager, Cheri Rutledge.

As part of the property's eco-friendly practices, The Tampa Airport Marriott will donate 5% of the total guestroom rate to the Amazonas Sustainable Foundation to help protect and preserve the Juma Reserve in the Amazon Rainforest in Brazil. Groups that book meetings at the hotel will have an opportunity to address climate change and improve the environment as part of **Marriott Spirit to Preserve the Rainforest**. Please visit **www.TampaAirportMeetings.com** for additional details.

Conveniently located inside the Tampa International Airport and ranked in Marriott's Top 10 company-wide for guest service, the Tampa Airport Marriott is the perfect meeting destination. The hotel features 18,000 square-feet of meeting space and 15 meeting rooms, a kosher kitchen, five restaurants and lounges and a newly renovated heated pool, whirlpool, fitness center and lobby. The hotel is located within five minutes of the International Plaza Mall and Raymond

James Stadium, home of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. For more information, or to book a meeting please call **1-813-879-5151**, or visit **[www.TampaAirportMeetings.com](http://www.TampaAirportMeetings.com)**.

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Visit [Marriott International, Inc. \(NYSE:MAR\)](#) for a company overview.