



For Immediate Release  
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## **Rickenbacker named Ohio Airport of the Year**

COLUMBUS, OH – Rickenbacker International Airport (LCK) has been named 2021 Airport of the Year by the Ohio Aviation Association at their Annual Ohio Aviation Conference. The award honors airports that have made extraordinary accomplishments in aviation.

Rickenbacker was recognized for its leadership during an unpredictable year that brought emergency PPE shipments, record-breaking shipments of international cargo, and its first passenger aircraft converted for cargo.

“We’re honored that LCK could play a key role to ensure vital medical equipment and PPE could get to our essential front-line workers around the nation,” said Joseph R. Nardone, President & CEO of the Columbus Regional Airport Authority. “Not only did we weather the storm, but Rickenbacker came out stronger and we will continue to serve as a critical global air cargo gateway.”

“Rickenbacker International Airport is a key asset in southern Franklin County. The facilities they have on-site, plus the facilities immediately adjacent to it, make it a star in the multimodal world,” said Stacey Heaton, Executive Director of the Ohio Aviation Association. “But this award looks beyond their day-to-day and wants to give additional credit where it is due: for their integral part of getting Ohio back on its feet during COVID.”

While many businesses and organizations shut down during the global pandemic, Rickenbacker, along with other airports, stayed open as an essential service for communities. Throughout the pandemic Rickenbacker proved to be an important national asset.

Rickenbacker has continued to increase its capacity in order to keep up with demand for PPE as well as more traditional shipments of consumer goods and manufacturing components. The airport broke records for international all-cargo arrivals in June 2020 with 120 flights, and again in June 2021 with 150 flights. And the airport continues to expand air cargo capability with a new pharmaceutical cargo transfer facility scheduled to open later this year.

Rickenbacker is one of the few non-passenger hub airports to accommodate passenger-freighters, a unique solution utilizing inactive passenger aircraft to carry cargo. In September, the airport expects to surpass 1,000 passenger-freighters since May 2020, highlighting the adaptability and ingenuity of the entire air cargo community at Rickenbacker.

Rickenbacker’s contributions to Ohio’s economy continue to grow. The airport’s annual economic impact in Ohio totals over 15,000 jobs and \$2.5 billion.

### **About Rickenbacker International Airport**

[Rickenbacker International Airport \(LCK\)](#) is one of the world’s only cargo-focused airports, moving airfreight between planes and trucks faster than any other global gateway. Rickenbacker is strategically located within a 10-hour drive of half the US and a third of Canadian populations, offering a regional geographic advantage. Rickenbacker supports the world’s largest aircraft, while also offering a wide range of scalable services for all aircraft types, including corporate, general aviation, commercial, air freight and military. The [Columbus Regional Airport Authority](#) connects Ohio with the world by managing

and operating Rickenbacker Airport as well as passenger-focused [John Glenn Columbus International Airport \(CMH\)](#), and general aviation airport Bolton Field (TZR). Follow Rickenbacker on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

**Media Contact**

Sarah McQuaide

Manager | Communications & Marketing

Columbus Regional Airport Authority

4600 International Gateway | Columbus, Ohio 43219

o 614.239.3400 | c 614.202.2299

[media@columbusairports.com](mailto:media@columbusairports.com) | [ColumbusAirports.com](http://ColumbusAirports.com) | [News Hub](#)

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