

Press release

For immediate release

SDBJ INVESTS \$1.2 MILLION TO DEVELOP CARGO SERVICES AT LA GRANDE RIVIÈRE AIRPORT

Matagami, March 16, 2022 – The Société de développement de la Baie-James (SDBJ) is pleased to announce that it is investing \$1,200,000 in the project to expand the Valpiro inc. hangar and cargo handling space at La Grande Rivière Airport.

Highlights

- Through the addition of nearly 10,000 square feet, the project will enable Valpiro inc. to double its warehousing capacity so that it can better meet its customers' needs;
- The project will enable Valpiro inc. to adequately respond to the growing demand for goods from Inuit communities and mining companies north of the 55th parallel;
- The investment will improve supply logistics at La Grande Rivière Airport, so that the company is better able to respond to climate-change-related storage and packing issues that lead to delays in air shipments and create the need for more storage space.

Quotes

“The Québec government supports SDBJ’s continuing efforts to help fund and take part in strategic projects. This project is an excellent example, not only in that it supports the development of a Cree company that has been operating in the Nord-du-Québec region for 50 years, but also because it will generate socioeconomic spinoffs for the entire region, both during construction and after completion.”

Jonatan Julien, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources and Minister Responsible for Côte-Nord Region

“Our ongoing objective is to develop La Grande Rivière Airport to its full potential since it is the northernmost airport in Québec to be connected to the road network—notably via the Billy-Diamond highway—and the railway system for all of Eastern Canada. The Valpiro inc. infrastructure expansion project is entirely in line with our ambitions and we are extremely pleased to be a part of it”

Alain Coulombe, President and CEO, SDBJ

“Valpiro inc. is happy to partner with SDBJ on the project to expand the La Grande Rivière Airport warehouse. The project will provide us with future opportunities and enable us to better serve our customers.”

Matthew Happyjack, President, Valpiro inc.

“Valpiro inc. recognizes the strategic position of La Grande Rivière Airport and has been providing aviation services there for many years. SDBJ’s contribution to our expansion project will enable us to increase our warehousing capacity and better meet the essential needs of Québec’s northern communities.”

Dominic Gagnon, Director General, Valpiro inc.

About Valpiro inc.

Having its head office in Oujé-Bougoumou, [Valpiro inc.](#) is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Cree Regional Economic Enterprises Company (CreeCo) Inc. Valpiro owns and operates a cargo transshipment site at La Grande Rivière Airport, which includes a partly refrigerated building where the company offers baggage handling, cargo flight preparation, aircraft loading, generator and aircraft de-icing services.

About SDBJ

[SDBJ](#) was created under the James Bay Region Development Act adopted by the Québec National Assembly in 1971. Its mission is to promote, from a sustainable development perspective, the economic development, improvement and exploitation of natural resources other than hydroelectric resources falling within Hydro-Québec’s mandate in the James Bay territory. SDBJ can also foster, support and participate in the implementation of projects having these objectives.

-30-

Source

Alain Coulombe, MBA
President and Chief Executive Officer
Société de développement de la Baie-James
Tel.: 819 739-4717, ext. 1250
Fax: 819 739-4329
alain.coulombe@sdbj.gouv.qc.ca

Information

Dominic Gagnon
Director General
Valpiro inc.
Tel.: 819 825-3312
Fax: 819 825-3654
dgagnon@valpiro.com