



The Susquehanna Area Regional Airport Authority invites applications for
Deputy Executive Director

Harrisburg International Airport (MDT)
Middletown, PA

EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES PROVIDED BY ADK CONSULTING & EXECUTIVE SEARCH



The Airport

Susquehanna Area Regional Airport Authority (SARAA) is a municipal authority that owns and manages the Harrisburg International Airport (HIA) and three regional general aviation airports: Capital City Executive Airport, Gettysburg Regional Airport, and Franklin County Regional Airport. Together these facilities safely and efficiently handle approximately 165,000 aircraft operations each year, providing Pennsylvania residents with the opportunity to remain connected with the global marketplace via aviation. Harrisburg International Airport and its surrounding property represent SARAA's primary facility, housing most of the staff and all administrative offices. SARAA has approximately 120 employees. Additionally, approximately 1,500 people work at HIA for the airlines, TSA, FAA, restaurants, shops, car rental companies, the hotel, and other businesses located on airport property. HIA is SARAA's primary source of revenue.



Harrisburg International Airport: Harrisburg International Airport (FAA Code: MDT) is the third largest airport in Pennsylvania that features daily non-stop flights to approximately 20 cities and one-stop flights to destinations around the world. In 2025, HIA served approximately 1.6 million passengers. HIA's strategic location in Central PA offers travelers an "Altogether Better" travel experience, providing a convenient alternative to fly closer to home without the need to travel to other major airports. Business and leisure travelers find that the location and size of the airport reduce the stress of travel. At Harrisburg International Airport, travelers can save Money, Distance, and Time (MDT).



Outbound passengers enjoy easy highway access, ample parking, and shorter lines. The airport offers casual dining restaurants, fast food outlets, retail shopping, and flight options with five major airlines. Amenities include a frequent flyer lounge, a private lactation suite, and free Wi-Fi access. Dining experiences include Yuengling 1829 Bar and Grill, Starbucks, Dunkin' Donuts, Great American Bagel, Capital Café and others. Inbound passengers enjoy a waiting area with rocking chairs, a short walk to baggage claim and ground transportation options to get travelers right where they need to be.

The runway at HIA is 10,001 feet long (almost 2 miles) and 200 feet wide, and can handle any size aircraft, including the world's largest military cargo planes. It is also not uncommon to see some of the planes from the Presidential fleet such as "Air Force One" performing touch-and-goes at HIA. The east end of the airport hosts a large cargo facility where UPS and FedEx operate. The 193rd Special Operations Wing of the Air National

The Airport *(continued)*

Guard and their C-130 aircraft are also located on the east end of HIA. AvFlight, HIA's Fixed Base Operator (FBO), handles private aircraft that come to HIA, as well as refueling the larger commercial planes.

Background/History: Harrisburg International Airport has been serving Central Pennsylvania for over 107 years. In 1898, the Signal Corps of the U.S. Army was stationed on our present site in Middletown. The first airplanes landed in 1918 at the base, which was renamed Olmsted Air Force Base after World War II. By the time it was decommissioned in 1969, the base had grown to employ 11,400 civilians. At this point, Harrisburg International Airport began to serve the public, under the ownership of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Commercial service began in 1969.

In 1998, the Commonwealth transferred ownership to the Susquehanna Area Regional Airport Authority. A joint municipal authority created in 1997 under the Pennsylvania Municipality Authorities Act, SARAA is governed by representatives from the counties of Dauphin, Cumberland and York, the cities of Harrisburg and York, and the townships of Lower Swatara and Fairview. SARAA is an independent entity governed by a board of directors composed of fifteen members. The municipalities appoint representatives to serve five-year terms on the board; each county appoints three board members, each city appoints two board members, and each township appoints one board member.

Airport System: In addition to Harrisburg International Airport, SARAA also owns Capital City Executive Airport (CXY) in New Cumberland, York County. Capital City Airport (founded in 1938 as York State Airport) served as the commercial service airport for central Pennsylvania until the creation of HIA in 1969.

In July of 2004, SARAA, in conjunction with the FAA and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's Bureau of Aviation, acquired the Chambersburg Municipal Airport and re-named it Franklin County Regional Airport (FCRA). The general aviation facility is located in Greene Township, Franklin County. In August of 2006, SARAA acquired another general aviation airport, the Gettysburg Travel Center, and renamed it the Gettysburg Regional Airport (GRA). The facility is located in Cumberland Township, Adams County.





The Community

The SARAAs airport system serves the South-Central region of Pennsylvania. The eight counties surrounding our airports have a total population of just over 2.1 million people. This region continues to experience steady growth and is projected to grow by approximately 7–9% over the next 20 years.

The city of Harrisburg is the capital of the nation's fifth largest state. As a result, the region features a stable and diverse economy with unemployment rates regularly lower than state and national averages. The Transportation, Trade and Logistics industry is the region's largest employment sector followed by Education and Healthcare, Manufacturing, Government, and Professional Services. Some of the region's largest employers are The Hershey Company, Select Medical, Penn Entertainment, Dentsply Sirona Inc., Weis Markets, D&H Distributing, Rutter's Corporation and High Industries. There are more than 20 college and university campuses in the region with a total enrollment of more than 75,000 undergraduate students. Penn State University is located less than two hours to the northwest of Harrisburg International Airport.

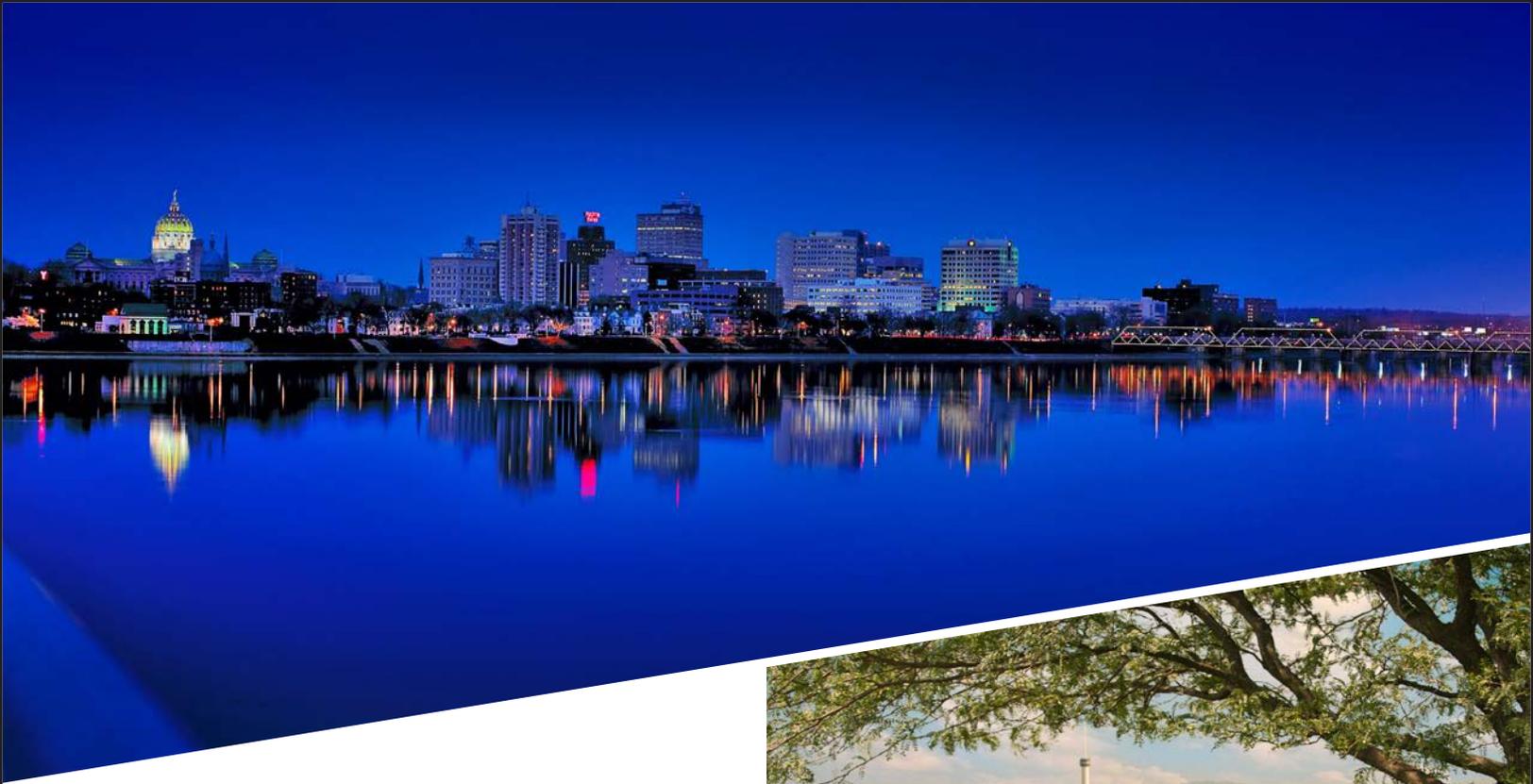


This region welcomes more than 8 million visitors each year, as it is a blend of urban appeal and natural settings. You can enjoy family fun, historical sites, live music and events, chocolate, roller coasters, craft beer, exquisite dining, covered bridges, professional sports, and nights out on the town. We have much to explore, and it keeps getting better. We have some of the best things to do in Pennsylvania — in ALL four seasons of the year!

Harrisburg will surprise you with its rich history, delicious dining, family activities, and welcoming small-town feel. From island baseball games and art museums to nightlife and outdoor activities, it might just be one of the coolest cities you haven't been to yet! And if you have, welcome back for more family fun, theatre, panoramic river views, and everything else in between.



Hershey is where an enterprising candymaker struck gold making chocolate ... then built a town and shared the wealth. With Chocolate World, The Hershey Experience, Hersheypark and The Hershey Hotel, there's plenty to enjoy. Don't miss the Giant Center, home to the Hershey Bears hockey team that brought home the 2024 Calder Cup Championship trophy. The Giant Center hosts an impressive line-up of concerts, comedy shows, professional ice shows, and family events.



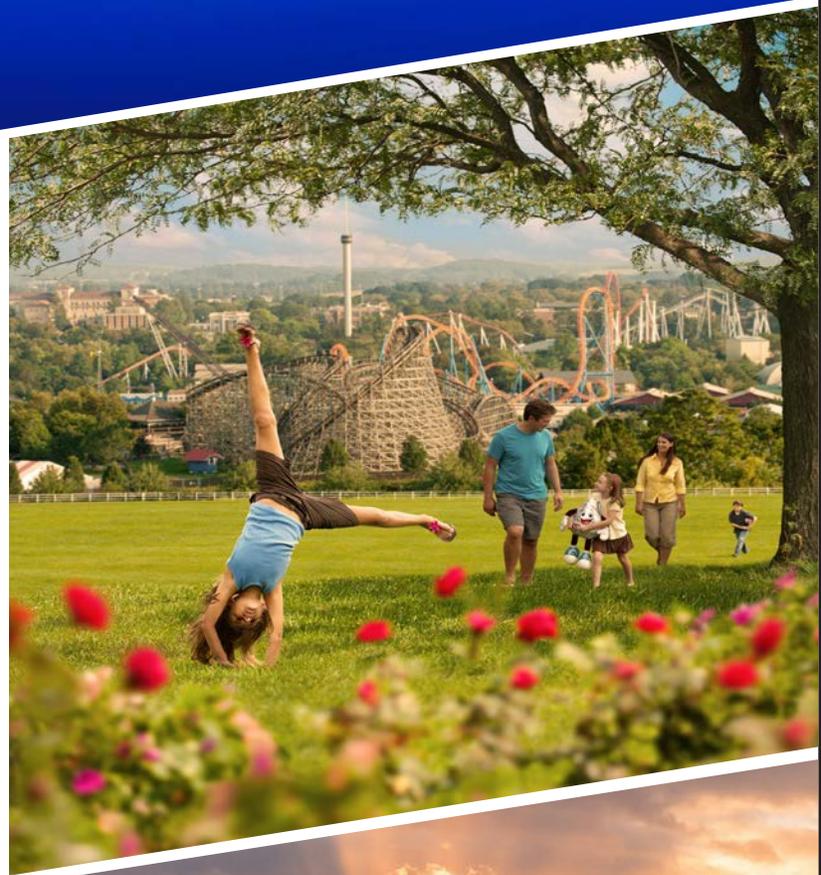
The Community (*continued*)

Experience the rolling hills, rocky terrain and stirring atmosphere of Gettysburg — the hallowed ground where U.S. history was made. The site of the fateful turning point in our country's Civil War, the battlefield haunts, fascinates and inspires awe even now. Surrounded by the renowned orchards and popular wineries of Adams County, Gettysburg is a perfect stop for any getaway.

You'll want time to explore Lancaster, a comfortable crossroads of farm life and hip lifestyle. Survey the beautiful farmland and distinctive culture of one of the country's largest and oldest Amish communities, then head into Lancaster City for lunch at historic Central Market. While in town, stroll the art galleries, take in a show at The Fulton, and sample artfully crafted food and drink from your choice of award-winning restaurants. And be sure to check out Lititz, named the Coolest Small Town in the U.S. – it's right down the road.

York is a hidden gem in our region. Explore the great outdoors and capture the perfect selfie in front of a beautiful view. Learn something new at our fascinating museums. Take a walk along miles of hiking trails. Enjoy farm-fresh food or shop small at our unique local shops. Visit the Harley-Davidson factory, and watch the legend come to life, then head over to the York Barbell Weightlifting Hall of Fame and get inspired to pump some iron!

The Southcentral Pennsylvania region is a great place to live, work and play!



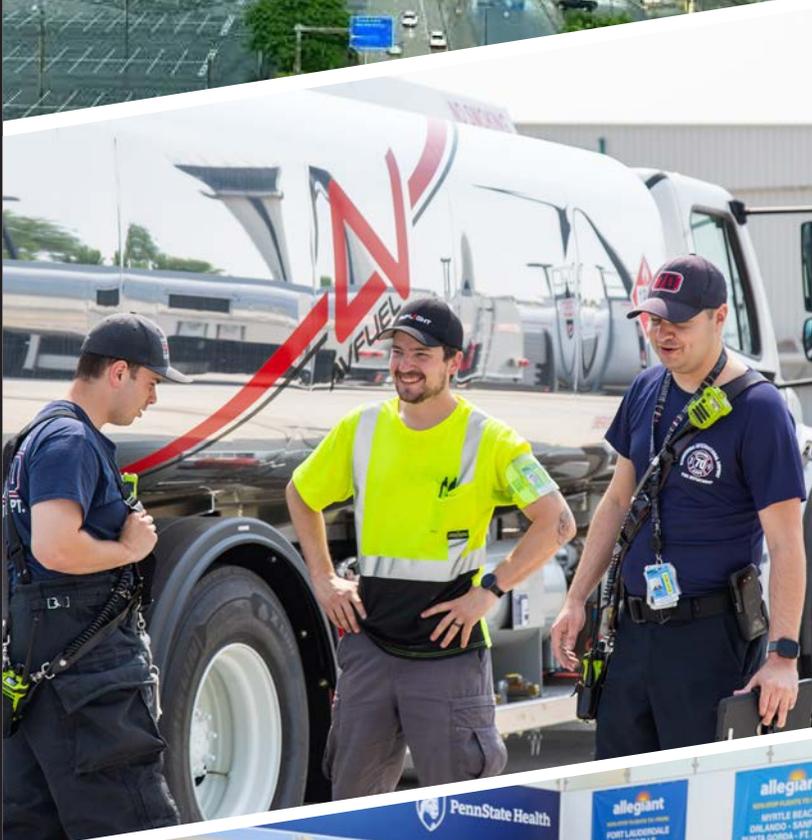


Position Overview

The Deputy Executive Director serves as a senior executive and principal advisor to the Executive Director, providing operational leadership for a small hub commercial service airport and three general aviation airports. This role shares responsibility for strategic direction, regulatory compliance, financial stewardship, and organizational performance while ensuring safe, efficient, and customer-focused airport operations. In the absence of the Executive Director, the Deputy assumes full aviation-related leadership responsibilities.

About the Role

Working across multiple airport facilities, the Deputy Executive Director provides executive oversight of strategic planning, development, operations, maintenance, marketing, air service development, and public relations activities. This leader collaborates closely with Authority staff, tenants, airline partners, elected officials, regulatory agencies, and community stakeholders to ensure alignment with federal, state, and local requirements. The role blends operational management with long-term strategic planning and community representation, supporting both daily execution and future growth initiatives. The role represents the Authority to clients, customers, and the general public.



Key Responsibilities

- Assume primary administrative and operational leadership in the Executive Director's absence.
- Oversee airport planning, land use, development initiatives, and environmental and noise compliance.
- Support development and oversight of the Capital Improvement Plan and major infrastructure projects.
- Provide executive review of operational manuals, including certification, security, and emergency plans.
- Assist with state and federal grant applications, grant administration, and annual budget management.
- Monitor air service performance, airline activity, cargo trends, and operational metrics.
- Represent the Authority with government agencies, business groups, and aviation organizations.



Leadership Qualities and Style

The ideal candidate is a collaborative and steady leader who communicates effectively with internal teams and external partners. This executive demonstrates sound judgment, political awareness, and operational credibility, balancing regulatory precision with strategic vision. A commitment to safety culture, accountability, and customer service excellence is essential, along with the ability to guide teams through complex regulatory and development initiatives.

Preferred Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Aviation Management or a related field; master's degree preferred.
- Seven (7) to ten (10) years of progressively responsible airport management experience, including supervisory leadership.
- A.A.E. credential or ACI USAP or IAP certification desirable, or willingness to obtain.

For full job description, [click here](#).

Salary and Benefits

The salary range for this position is \$150,000-\$185,000, based on qualifications. A salary above the range would be available for an exceptional candidate.

How To Apply

To apply online, [click here](#).

Deadline for applications: April 12, 2026

The contacts for this search are:

Theresa H. Schatz, A.A.E.
sia@adkexecutivesearch.com

Sybil Murphy, SHRM-SCP, CCP, CBP
sybil@adkexecutivesearch.com

The Susquehanna Area Regional Airport Authority is an equal opportunity employer.

