

ANNOUNCEMENT

October 13, 2026

ADK Recruits Chief Operating Officer for The Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority

ADK Consulting & Executive Search, a retained recruitment firm known for its expertise in senior executive searches in the aviation industry, announced the successful placement of Patrick Mac Carthaigh, A.A.E., as Chief Operating Officer for The Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority (MCAA). In this role, Mr. Mac Carthaigh will provide executive leadership for the day-to-day operations of McGhee Tyson Airport (TYS) and Downtown Island Airport (DKX). He will oversee the areas of Facilities, Operations, Public Safety, General Aviation, Technology, and Procurement.



Patrick Mac Carthaigh, A.A.E.

Mr. Mac Carthaigh has a strong background in airport management and aviation leadership, developing and implementing strategies that support safe, efficient and seamless airport operations. Most recently, he served as Vice President of Operations for South Bend International Airport, where he provided leadership across airport operations, maintenance, capital development and public safety while helping advance the airport's strategic priorities. Previously, he spent seven years with Melbourne Orlando International Airport, advancing through increasingly responsible roles and gaining broad experience in airport operations, regulatory compliance, emergency management and capital projects.

"I am incredibly excited and proud to be joining the team at MCAA, and I am appreciative of the opportunity," said Mr. Mac Carthaigh. "McGhee Tyson, as the cornerstone of the MCAA system, is one of those airports that's always on your radar because of the airport's continued growth, dynamism and strong leadership. I look forward to getting up to speed and contributing to the abundant successes of the teams and organization."

Mr. Mac Carthaigh earned a bachelor's degree in Literature from Holy Cross College and went on to receive a master's degree in Aviation Airport Development and Management from Florida Institute of Technology. He is an Accredited Airport Executive (A.A.E.) through the American Association of Airport Executives.

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[McGhee Tyson Airport](#)

About ADK Consulting & Executive Search

Named to Hunt Scanlon's 2025 Select Guide to America's Top 250 Executive Search Firms, ADK brings award-winning expertise to every engagement. Founded in Jacksonville, Florida, in 2003, we are a retained consulting and search firm **connecting exceptional leaders with outstanding opportunities**.

- Executive Search: C-Suite to mid-level placements across private and public sectors
- Confidential Search: Targeted outreach to recruit top passive candidates
- Interim Management: Experienced leaders to manage transitions and deliver results
- Management Consulting: Tailored organizational assessments and strategic advice

Our 25-member team serves clients ranging from small private businesses to Fortune 100 companies and public sector organizations—across the U.S., Canada, Turks & Caicos, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. If you're seeking a visionary, high-impact C-Suite leader, ADK's strong networks and personalized approach deliver the right fit.

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