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1 888 838 5355**Miami Intermodal Center****News Clip**From: *Miami Today*, Thursday, February 21, 2013Subject: **Convention center eyed near airport**Provided by: Jenine Sussman, Kommunikatz
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Convention center eyed near airport

A convention center is in the wings as use of 8.5 raw acres beside the Miami Intermodal Center and intermodal center control come up for county debate in coming weeks.

The Florida Department of Transportation is about to hand over the land and development of the center, a transportation hub beside Miami International Airport.

But what the land will be used for, who will control it and how the massive intermodal center now nearing completion will be governed are key pending decisions, Gus Pego, state transportation chief for the area, told the county's transportation and airport committee last week.

Those discussions have dragged on for years, he said. But decision day nears: the intermodal center will be ready in a year.

"We're looking for something in the governance of the joint development that would be complementary to the community," Commissioner Dennis Moss said, "and our studies have indicated that there's several potential land uses that can be mini convention centers, things like that."

Mr. Moss, transportation and airport committee chair, noted that the airport plans to ask the commission to approve the 33-acre Airport City at MIA proposal in coming weeks.

That Odebrecht USA plan includes a hospitality center with a 425-room hotel and conference center as well as a business park containing 1 million square feet of offices, another hotel and a MIA Mover station. A third segment would be a retail and services complex.

Whatever is done with the 8.5 acres, Mr. Moss said, "we want to make sure that it's complementary and not detracting from Airport City."

The 8.5 acres were part of the intermodal hub, Mr. Pego said, which was scaled down after 9/11 terrorist attacks because new security needs blotted out the vision of the center as the airport's check-in front door.