Aeropuertos Argentina 2000 (AA2200) has opened the new $150m Buenos Aires Ezeiza International Airport Terminal C, complete with its new 800sq m InterBaires duty free departures shop selling perfumes, cosmetics, liquor and tobacco, as well as a selection of watches, sunglasses, accessories, fashion and sporting goods.

The first commercial flight took place last week from the 21,000sq m facility that will be used exclusively by the national airline, Aerolineas Argentinas.

The new terminal took 19 months to construct and comprises eight new boarding bridges, 2,500 parking spaces, 12 immigration control posts and additional baggage screening areas.

Argentinian President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner formally opened the terminal last week, referring to it as a ‘wonderful new facility’. Also present at the July 9 opening were several dignitaries, including the President of Aeropuertos Argentina 2000, Ernesto Gutiérrez; and the head of Corporación América, Eduardo Eurnekian.

‘AMBITIOUS INITIATIVE…’
In a statement, Aeropuertos Argentina 2000 said: “The construction of the new passengers’ terminal is part of an ambitious initiative under way at the airport that manages the largest number of passengers and operations in Argentina. Thus, Ezeiza will rely on enhanced safety, more infrastructure, the latest technology, and more services as well.

“Once the mega project is completed by 2013, as estimated so far, Ezeiza will have capacity to serve 13 million passengers and 90,000 operations a year. In addition, it will rely on 186,000 square metres of aprons, 21 telescopic bridges, 4,800 vehicle parking spaces, and 200 check-in positions.

BUILT FOR FUTURE GROWTH
“The design of the new passengers’ terminal will have capacity to process 4,000 passengers at rush hours, thus meeting both the immediate and future growth in demand.”

Airport operator Aeropuertos Argentina AA2000 now hopes that the new terminal – and Ezeiza as a whole – will eventually be served by a direct rail link to downtown Buenos Aires.

A new hotel is being built at the airport at the same time as transfer traffic is said to be growing fast. The new terminal has been named after Argentine folk music singer Mercedes Sosa, who died in 2009.