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## Seaborne Eyes Vieques Route Restoration and Fleet Expansion Following Acquisition Deal

**With new leadership and financial backing in place, Seaborne plans to enhance reliability, modernize customer service tools, and reopen key routes—starting with a review of aircraft needs and the potential restoration of service to Vieques.**

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Seaborne Airlines announced on Friday that it is preparing to expand inter-island service—including the potential restoration of its Vieques route—under new ownership led by aviation executive Darrell Richardson and backed by the Leonite Fund. The company is evaluating the acquisition of additional Twin Otter aircraft and other models suitable for regional travel, signaling renewed focus on fleet and network optimization in the Caribbean.

As part of its strategic reboot, Seaborne is also prioritizing improved on-time performance, upgraded customer experience, and renewed training for frontline staff—efforts intended to position the airline for long-term growth and regional leadership.

The move comes as Richardson officially takes over as President and CEO following [the successful close of a purchase agreement](#). “Today marks a fresh chapter for Seaborne and for the communities we serve across the U.S. Virgin Islands and the broader Caribbean,” said Richardson. “Our successful closing of the Seaborne acquisition provides the stable ownership platform we need to move forward with confidence.”

According to the release, Richardson brings more than four decades of aviation leadership experience, including at Silver Airways, Continental Express, Pace Airlines, and Air Turks & Caicos. He underscored three pillars for Seaborne’s future: “rock-solid safety, reliable service, and genuine partnership with employees and the communities we serve.

The airline’s immediate commitments include:

- Uninterrupted seaplane operations, with all current tickets and schedules remaining valid.
- Full protection of its workforce, with post-bankruptcy wages and obligations secured for over 50 employees under the new purchase terms.
- Active engagement with regulatory and local stakeholders, including the U.S. Department of Transportation, the V.I. Port Authority, and tourism officials to ensure a seamless transition.

A digital refresh is also in the works, with Seaborne set to enhance its booking platforms and place greater emphasis on “warm Virgin Islands hospitality,” starting with staff retraining this quarter.

Leonite Fund’s Chief Investment Officer Avi Geller praised the new leadership, citing Richardson’s proven ability to turn around carriers through disciplined operations and community trust. “We could not be more pleased to welcome Darrell back to the helm of a carrier with tremendous untapped potential,” said Geller.

Richardson echoed that sentiment, emphasizing Seaborne’s regional role. “Seaborne is more than an airline; it is a connective tissue for the Virgin Islands’ economy,” he said. He also revealed plans to diversify revenue through cargo and charter services and to strengthen partnerships that expand Caribbean accessibility for residents, tourists, and business travelers.

He closed with a public invitation for feedback and engagement: “I encourage anyone with concerns or ideas on how we can improve to reach out to me directly at [Darrell.Richardson@seaborneairlines.com](mailto:Darrell.Richardson@seaborneairlines.com).”