

# Rationale for Implementing an Airport Laboratory

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## Background

This paper will focus on reporting the reasons that led one of the biggest medical companies in Latin America to implement a laboratory at Tom Jobim International Airport (Rio de Janeiro's International Airport – 'GIG'). First, a Test Center was designed for processing COVID-19 tests because of its on growing demand by incoming and outgoing passengers. Because of the operation's positive feedback, the laboratory saw an opportunity to further the development of Test Center.

## Methods

The operation benefited from well-established tools and concepts from the logistics mainly because the field seeks cost-benefit solutions by helping uncovering efficiency gains from the implementation of a risky operation like a clinical lab in an airport.

## Results

The lab structure at GIG was economically risky, - because of the 'end of the pandemic' since many countries ended Covid-19 requirements for entrance. Despite this, it was an effective solution for the company's development beyond Sao Paulo. Its success is due to the adoption of logistics' concepts also aligned with a contemporary vision.

To exemplify, 'hub' is a term that can be applied to multiple fields. In logistics, it generally corresponds to a common point for several activities. In our view, various activities like sending out samples of non-routine and special tests were possible because of the existence of our reference lab in Sao Paulo, - our focal point.

## Conclusion

The airport's strategic location and function – business and transportation focused - were important advantages for the success of the operation. Secondly, the upgrade from a Test Center to a regional lab in Rio de Janeiro allowed the expansion of local services and integration of operations nationwide through the swift delivery and receipt of biological samples to Sao Paulo. As a result, delays were avoided, not compromising the known quality of results offered by the company.