

Aviation Repair Technologies Celebrates Grand Opening in Blytheville Company to employ 310 people

BLYTHEVILLE, Arkansas (October 17, 2008) – Aviation Repair Technologies (ART), an airframe and engine repair facility, celebrated its grand opening today at the Arkansas Aeroplex in Blytheville. The event marked the completion of the first stage of a planned \$20 million investment in the facility, which is projected to employ 310 people within three years.

Governor Mike Beebe joined local leaders and ART company leadership and customers at the celebration.

“We are excited about the progress ART has made at the Aeroplex. Our customers are pleased with the quality of the facilities, the convenience of the location and the excellent work performed by our employees,” said Ben Quevedo, chairman of ART. “I thank the State of Arkansas and Mississippi County for their support as we have developed our business in Blytheville.”

ART’s principal activities at the Arkansas Aeroplex will include line maintenance, heavy maintenance, jet engine overhaul and other maintenance activities for aircraft such as the CRJ-200 and ATR-72. ART currently provides maintenance for operators such as Atlantic Southeast Airlines, Midwest Express, Allegiant Air, and Bahamasair.

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“Arkansas’ reputation in the aerospace industry is strengthened once again today with the opening of ART,” Governor Mike Beebe said. “I am delighted that the big names in aviation are discovering the advantages of locating and doing business in Arkansas more and more, and we welcome ART to Blytheville to further increase our presence in this important industry.”

ART is an airside service company with more than 300 employees nationwide and offers a variety of aircraft cleaning and maintenance services such as daily line maintenance, cargo handling, engine changes and aircraft exterior cleaning at more than 30 airports across the United States.

“We are very pleased and proud to have a company the caliber of Aviation Repair Technologies locate in Blytheville,” said Clif Chitwood, economic developer for Mississippi County. “The entire community, Mayor Barrett Harrison, County Judge Steve McGuire, the Quorum Court, Mr. Joe Gurley and the Board of the Arkansas Aeroplex, as well as the local economic development staff, have worked for years to find a company whose vision, strength and capabilities would make it a great match for the former Blytheville Air Force Base. It was a very big sword, but working together, we have finally beaten it into a very big plowshare.”

The Arkansas Aeroplex is a multi-modal transportation facility and is located on the former Eaker Air Force Base. This location is now a general airport and industrial park.

Additional information can be found at www.artmaintenance.com.