



PRESS RELEASE – 19th December 2011

AIRPORT PROPERTY BOOM TAKES OFF



With its Runway Safety Project nearing completion, Gloucestershire Airport is undergoing a property boom with a number of transactions in progress as various companies at the Staverton site gear up for their future operations.

The Airport's largest flying and commercial pilot training school Aeros, aircraft engineering company RGV Aviation, Air Traffic Control training company, Global ATS and hangar developers Skypark UK are all involved in deals that will see a number of relocation and refurbishment schemes.

Aeros are consolidating their operations at their existing maintenance office and hangar and leasing additional hangar space from the Airport to accommodate their fleet of 25 aeroplanes. Staverton is the company's main commercial pilot training facility and acts as a maintenance hub for their fleet, which has bases at Coventry, Wellesbourne and Cardiff. CEO Tom Dunn said: - "This move will enable us to provide an even better service to our increasing customer base. The airport is an excellent, well managed facility and will continue to be at the centre of our expanding operations."

Lease terms have been agreed for the former Aeros premises with RGV Aviation, who will be expanding their facilities. Managing director, Stuart Vincent said: - "Our main engineering operation will move to hangar SE4. The move will double our capacity for aircraft maintenance and avionics. The new premises will provide the extra space required for several business contracts that RGV are currently negotiating.

In the New Year our existing premises at hangar SE40 will see a new paint shop installed and an expansion of our structural repair business for both composite and metal constructed aircraft. We have installed an environmentally friendly waste oil burning heater that will allow us to burn the waste products from aircraft servicing thereby improving our carbon footprint.”

Skypark UK are nearing completion of a major refurbishment of a former wartime hangar at Staverton. Skypark MD, Steve Williams said: - “SE3 was due to be demolished and replaced with a new soulless tin shed, however once refurbished the character of the building will not be lost, the striking modern exterior will be supported on the original internal metal frame which forms the heart of this historic building.”

The final piece of the property jigsaw sees Global ATS relocate to new Air Traffic Control training facilities in a hangar and office complex that they have purchased. IT and Operations Director, Marcus Mimms said “We are very excited about the move to Hangar 35, it give us the opportunity to provide an industry leading training environment to our students and raises our profile to a new level. We will have 9000 sq ft of dedicated training facilities, offices and simulations rooms and will be introducing 3D aerodrome simulators to our inventory in 2012.”

Airport Head of Operations, Darren Lewington, said: - “The major civil engineering works for our £3.9M Runway Safety Project are now complete and we expect to have the new Instrument Landing System fully functional by the summer of 2012.

This flurry of property transactions amongst our clients bodes well for the future. Alongside the refurbishment of our largest hangar, it is clear that confidence and demand for new and improved facilities at the Airport is high, even during the difficult economic conditions.

The Joint Core Strategy consultation document has identified the land in and around the Airport as having potential for economic development and the current situation we find ourselves in clearly strengthens that argument. With Plymouth and Filton airports both scheduled for closure, the future of the airport in serving the regional business community looks positive.”