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## **WEST STAR AVIATION EXPANDS TO EAST COAST WITH SOUTH CAROLINA FACILITY**

**EAST ALTON, Ill., Oct. 13, 2008** – West Star Aviation, a leader in business aviation maintenance, avionics and modifications, is expanding its customer reach with a new facility near Columbia, S.C. A groundbreaking ceremony is planned for 11 a.m. Oct. 17.

West Star's new facility will be located at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport (KCAE) in Lexington County, S.C., and will provide maintenance and refurbishment services for a wide range of corporate aircraft. West Star expects to begin serving customers at the site in the second quarter of 2009.

"Customers have been asking West Star to open a location on the East Coast, and we are thrilled to come to South Carolina in order to meet their needs," said Mike Durst, executive vice president and general manager of West Star Aviation. "This new facility fits into our strategic goal of providing convenient, state-of-the-art maintenance facilities for customers nationwide. Our South Carolina employees will continue West Star's tradition of providing outstanding customer service."

When completed, the new facility is expected to create jobs for about 105 South Carolinians. West Star partnered with the Columbia Metropolitan Airport Authority, the South Carolina Department of Commerce, Lexington County officials and the Central S.C. Alliance to bring its operations to the Columbia area.

**For Immediate Release**

“West Star is a significant addition to South Carolina’s growing aviation industry,” said Joe Taylor, South Carolina secretary of commerce. “The company’s decision to locate here is a result of the state’s business-friendly climate and skilled workforce.”

West Star’s new facility will feature a 37,500-square-foot hangar and a two-story, 24,500-square-foot office and shop complex. The facility is being designed by the Columbia-based Garvin Design Group and built by Hood Construction.

“The Columbia Metropolitan Airport has been a tremendous asset for Lexington County and we are thrilled that it was instrumental in attracting West Star Aviation,” said Billy Derrick, chairman of the Lexington County Council. “We applaud the company’s decision to locate its most recent expansion in Lexington County and we look forward to working with the company in facilitating its growth and expansion in the Southeast.”

*West Star Aviation, Inc., specializes in airframe repair and maintenance, engine repair and maintenance, major modifications, avionics installation and repair, interior refurbishment, paint, parts, surplus avionics sales and accessory services. The company currently has maintenance facilities in East Alton, Ill., Grand Junction, Colo., and Dallas, Texas, and a Hiawatha, Iowa, location that specializes in the acquisition and sales of surplus avionics. The company also provides complete FBO services for transient aircraft at its newly remodeled East Alton and Grand Junction facilities. West Star Aviation, Inc., is an industry leader in technical experience and expertise, and provides world-class customer services in all of the organization’s divisions. For additional information, visit <http://www.weststaraviation.com> or call 800-922-2421.*

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