

Media Contacts:

Brian Sexton, Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (480) 988-7618, bsexton@phxmesagateway.org

Pati Urias, Arizona Department of Commerce, 602-771-1218, patiu@azcommerce.com

Holly Hosac, City of Mesa, (480) 644-3965, Holly.Hosac@cityofmesa.org

Aaron Wolf, Fleming West Building Company, (480) 951-5301, awolf@flemingwest.com

Janette Coates, Greater Phoenix Economic Council, (602) 262-8602, jcoates@gpec.org

Charlie Deaton, Mesa Chamber of Commerce, (480) 969-1307, cdeaton@mesachamber.org



**World's Leading General Aviation Company Hawker Beechcraft
Selects Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport for Aircraft Maintenance and Service Facility**

Estimated \$14 million initial investment to generate up to 110 new jobs

Mesa, Ariz. – May 21, 2008 – The Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, Arizona Department of Commerce, the City of Mesa, Greater Phoenix Economic Council, and the Mesa Chamber of Commerce are pleased to announce that Hawker Beechcraft Corporation (HBC), a world-leading manufacturer of corporate, special mission and trainer aircraft, will locate a new Hawker Beechcraft Services (HBS) aircraft maintenance and service center at the airport.

Gateway Airport will become HBS's 11th factory service center and ninth within the United States. The company's purchase of the recently completed 25,800 square foot Fleming West hangar and subsequent land lease will substantially complete development in the airport's north general aviation area. The first phase of the HBS expansion project will draw \$14 million in capital investment and involve modifications to the existing hangar on the property, as well as the addition of an adjacent office and hangar space. The development will bring 40 - 60 new jobs in its first phase and later grow to employ approximately 110 people.

“Hawker Beechcraft will be a significant business partner at Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport. We're pleased to have been selected for this new development as it will create economic opportunities for the local hospitality industry and other business services,” said Gila River Indian Community Lt. Governor and **Gateway Airport Authority Board Chairman Jennifer Allison-Ray**.

“We are grateful to our partners at the Arizona Department of Commerce, Arizona State University Polytechnic, City of Mesa, Chandler-Gilbert Community College, Greater Phoenix Economic Council, and the Mesa Chamber of Commerce for their support with this project,” **Allison-Ray** added.

Fleming West Building Company, recent recipient of Butler Manufacturing Company's “Western Region Builder of the Year” award **President and Owner Aaron Wolf** said, “We're pleased to be a part of creating something special in the aviation community. Having Hawker Beechcraft Services located adjacent to two other world renowned aerospace service centers creates a dynamic business jet environment unmatched at any other airport in the country.”

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"It's a pleasure to draw such a recognized and revered company to the City of Mesa," said **Economic Development Director Bill Jabjiniak**. "Being part of Hawker Beechcraft Services' network of factory owned world-class service centers will bring an experienced workforce to Mesa."

"GPEC is pleased to welcome Hawker Beechcraft, a leading aviation company, to Greater Phoenix creating 110 aerospace jobs for their service center," said **Barry Broome, Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC) president and CEO**. "The addition of Hawker Beechcraft Services further strengthens Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport as a world-class aviation center."

"Arizona's solid aerospace cluster and highly qualified workforce makes Hawker Beechcraft Services a perfect fit for Phoenix-Mesa Gateway," said **Jan Leshner, Director of the Arizona Dept of Commerce**. "We are pleased the company chose to expand its operations here."

"The location of the Hawker Beechcraft Service Center to Gateway is another great example of how our economic development community working together will create significant opportunities for Mesa area businesses and families. This is why economic development and business retention is so important to Mesa," said **Charlie Deaton, President and CEO of the Mesa Chamber of Commerce**."

Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport

The airport was established in 1994 and is owned and operated by the Williams Gateway Airport Authority, which consists of the Gila River Indian Community, Gilbert, Mesa, Phoenix and Queen Creek. As of October 25, 2007, Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport began offering non-stop passenger service to 13 cities nationwide. Formerly Williams Air Force Base, the Airport in east Mesa continues to expand its efforts to provide better service for the surrounding community and the greater Phoenix area. For more information visit www.phxmesagateway.org

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