



NEWS RELEASE

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AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURING COMPANY CHOOSES DEVILS LAKE FOR NEW FACILITY

DEVILS LAKE, N.D. – Robert Hensley, president and chief executive officer of Hensley Aircraft, Inc., joined state, regional and local officials today to announce the location of his company's aircraft manufacturing facility in Devils Lake, N.D.

Hensley Aircraft, currently based in Wayzata, MN, designs and manufactures the components necessary to build a four-seat, twin-engine, sport aircraft called the H-1 Wolf™.

“Sport aircraft fill a special niche for pilots like myself, as well as other potential pilots worldwide,” Hensley said. “Our decision to locate in Devils Lake and capitalize on the world-class workforce and unsurpassed state and local support will assure we fulfill our mission to provide customers with the finest aircraft available.”

Hensley will move all primary operations of the Wolf™ to the Devils Lake facility, beginning in the spring of 2005. This includes 15-20 full-time positions for assemblers, production managers, technical assistance, sales and marketing, and accounting professionals with salary ranges from \$40,000-\$85,000. Future employment growth includes another 10-15 full-time professional positions.

“We believe Mr. Hensley has made the right choice in locating his company in Devils Lake, North Dakota. We are confident our remarkable people and outstanding business climate will help Hensley Aircraft grow and prosper,” said Lee Peterson, commissioner of the North Dakota Department of Commerce.

North Dakota Ambassador and former state legislator Jay Lindgren provides legal counsel for Hensley Aircraft. He contacted the North Dakota Department of Commerce when he knew the company was beginning the site selection process. Lindgren is one of 850 Ambassadors around the country who are opening doors for North Dakota officials to meet with company executives and discuss the competitive advantages of doing business in the state.

Hensley Aircraft's goal is to provide pilots worldwide with the first-time opportunity to own and operate an affordable twin-engine aircraft that makes global travel a reality. Hensley is an airline captain, instructor pilot, airframe and powerplant mechanic, and an aircraft builder with over 25,000 hours of aircraft experience.

In 1988, he selected and began construction of his first homebuilt aircraft. It lacked the safety and utility aspects familiar to an airline pilot, so Hensley then devoted several years to conceptualizing, sketching and planning his "dream" aircraft. He brought together a team of designers and engineers representing NASA, the Federal Aviation Administration, and industry design analysts and production specialists to construct the Wolf™.

Mayor Fred Bott welcomed Hensley and his new company to Devils Lake. "The company's decision to locate on the Devils Lake airport is very exciting. With the new airport terminal that is currently under construction and other significant airfield improvements that have been completed in recent years, we believe Hensley Aircraft is an excellent fit. We welcome Hensley Aircraft to Devils Lake and look forward to the company's growth and prosperity in our community."

Bruce Smith, president and CEO of the UND Aerospace Foundation, reviewed the project and conducted a feasibility study of Hensley Aircraft over the past several months. He found the concept to be innovative and insightful. In his letter of support for the project, he said, "... The concept of factory-assisted fabrication and assembly minimizes the most difficult steps an owner faces during the construction of a kit-type aircraft. The safety and speed of a twin-engine aircraft are advantages over single-engine aircraft. And, the price ranges and cost savings offered by including the owner in the building process are attractive."

Partners on the project include Hensley Aircraft, the city of Devils Lake, Forward Devils Lake Corporation, North Central Planning Council, North Dakota Development Fund, Bank of North Dakota, and the divisions of Community Services and Economic Development & Finance at the North Dakota Department of Commerce.

"Successful economic development involves our continued work in three areas – business start ups, expansions and recruitment," Peterson said. "Working with our partners, we've assisted more companies than ever before with locations and expansions in North Dakota communities like Williston, Jamestown, Wahpeton and Devils Lake. Together, we are improving the quality of life for the people of North Dakota."

For more information on Hensley Aircraft, visit www.hensleyaircraft.com. To learn more about the Forward Devils Lake Corporation, visit www.forwarddl.com. To learn more about the Department of Commerce, visit www.growingnd.com.

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