

SLN Aviation Service Center

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GROWING AVIATION & AEROSPACE JOBS



Adding new aviation and aerospace jobs to our local economy is a major goal of the Salina and Saline County Economic Development Strategic Plan. The plan was developed and is being implemented in partnership by the City of Salina, Saline

County, the Salina Airport Authority and the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce. The Authority is leading efforts to develop the SLN Aviation Service Center as a premier location for aviation businesses to establish facilities for the maintenance, repair and overhaul of general aviation, commercial and military aircraft.

Developing the SLN Aviation Service Center is a capital intensive job that involves investment in both existing and new airport infrastructure. This summer the Authority is completing more than \$5 million in improvements to airfield runways and taxiways to keep the Salina Municipal Airport up to date with industry expectations and federal requirements. Earlier this year a new \$6.1 million maintenance, repair and overhaul hangar was completed and ready to be leased. The 69,000 square foot, modern hangar has already drawn interest from aviation service businesses who view Salina and Saline County as an excellent location for future growth.

The next challenge is to prepare more than 100 acres of property for long-term aviation and aerospace industry growth. The SLN Aviation Service Center growth area will require improvements such as new utilities, improved storm drainage, pavement removal, resurfacing existing pavement, repaving development lots and preparing building pads. The site improvements will be completed over the next three to five years. The priority for 2009 and 2010 is to construct the water, sewer and fire main utilities necessary to support the construction of more than 750,000 square feet of new hangars.

The SLN Aviation Service Center development plan is ambitious and achievable. The Salina Airport is already home to aviation businesses that employ valued aviation and aerospace employees. The development plan builds upon our successes and strengths. The result will be additional high paying jobs for our community.

SLN looks to future

Salina, Kan., (August 3, 2009) - Anyone who has flown into, out of, or over the Salina Municipal Airport has no doubt noticed busy construction crews all over the airfield.

So what is all the fuss about? Why would the Salina Airport Authority spend so much time, effort and least we forget money to rehabilitate multiple areas of the seemingly fine airport?

In a single word- jobs.

"We are working to be successful in recruiting more businesses like CAV Aerospace," said Tim Rogers, A.A.E., the Authority's executive director.

CAV Aerospace provides the TKS ice protection system to aircraft operators. The company designs, markets and sells to original equipment manufacturers, fleet and individual aircraft owners. It ships kits for installation to OEMs for the production line. Fleet and individual aircraft owners bring planes to Salina to install ice protection, a key safety provision.

"Our strategic plan is to recruit maintenance, repair and overhaul operations such as aircraft paint, interior installation, avionics, engine overhaul and the like, which complement our existing tenants like CAV and Hawker Beechcraft," said Rogers.

Many more doors open up when you take into account the National Guard's Great Plains Joint Training Center and K-State at Salina's new unmanned aircraft systems program office. Add to that, the Smoky Hill Weapons Range is only quick hop away from a 12,300 foot runway and Salina quickly becomes a coveted place to do business.

Not only does the Salina Airport Authority offer these important assets, but move-in ready facilities with no end in sight. Hangar 600, the 69,000 sq ft modern hangar and office complex has seen international interest. Of the current prospects for the facility, two are in the maintenance, repair and overhaul industry and one is looking at the facility for UAS development.

Once hangar 600 has a permanent tenant, the Authority will begin construction on another new speculative hangar, said Rogers. This fall construction will begin on water and sewer line improvements in support of new hangar construction.

"Civil and architectural design is also completed for an aircraft paint hangar," he said. "We are ready to build to suit."

An expanded Aviation Service Center will bring more than 800 new jobs to Salina and Saline County in the coming years. Aviation jobs pay in excess of \$17 per hour.

"Right now I have three locations that are ready for new construction to start today," said Rogers. "If we lease hangar 600 today and have someone who wants to build tomorrow, we're ready. So it's not that far off."



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