



Sharon Banks, Director of Communications — 313.224.0760
Vanessa Denha-Garmo, Press Secretary — 313.213.5274

For Immediate Release

July 17, 2008

New high-tech jobs coming to Wayne County

Wayne County — Two high-tech projects are planned in Wayne County — a new campus for the Michigan Institute of Aeronautics in Huron Township and an expansion of Steel Tool & Engineering in Gibraltar, County Executive Robert Ficano announced today.

These projects will create more than 250 new jobs — including 145 new jobs at the aeronautics campus — and involve more than \$8 million in new investment capital. State tax incentives and county road improvements helped land the projects over competing sites in other states.

The Belleville-based aeronautics school, one of the largest aviation maintenance technician schools in the nation, plans to expand and locate its Power Technology Institute in Huron Township. The institute focuses on alternative energy and trains students to become technicians and dispatchers. It has 450 students and expects to expand to more than 900 students.

“We were pleased to provide the local match for Michigan Institute of Aeronautics, a company that will provide high level training in wind energy for regional and national markets,” Wayne County Executive Ficano said. “Equally, we are pleased that Steel Tool & Engineering could consolidate its operation within the Downriver communities, showing that Wayne County continues to be competitive in attracting high tech companies.”

The addition of the new campus is another boost to the Detroit Region Aerotropolis, said Ficano. The Aerotropolis is a proposed Airport City encompassing about 60,000 acres of land in Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, including areas surrounding Detroit Metro and Willow Run Airports.

In supporting the aeronautics project, Wayne County will provide more than \$7 million to construct a four-lane boulevard along Sibley Road. The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) approved a state tax credit valued at \$847,000 over



five years. The Institute chose Michigan for its new campus over competing sites in Texas and other areas.

Various power companies, including Siemens International and DTE Energy, also are investing equipment in the institute.

Steel Tool, a manufacturer of commercial aircraft jet engines and military parts, plans to invest \$3.5 million to consolidate operations from Wyandotte and Taylor into a facility in Gibraltar. The MEDC provided a tax credit worth \$535,000 over seven years to win the project over competing sites in Indiana and elsewhere.

“Strong collaboration is critical for success in today’s competitive global arena,” MEDC President and CEO James C. Epolito said. “Together, with Wayne County, we made a strong business case to win this expansion and the new jobs it will create.”

