



Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation

Newsrelease

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AAG Continues Its Steady Climb in Dutchess County

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY. Since the Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation announced in 1999 the landing of Associated Aircraft Group (AAG) at the Dutchess County Airport, it has been nothing but good news for Dutchess County and for AAG. Based in Stratford, Connecticut, AAG expanded to Dutchess County in 1999 to establish a fractional (time-share) helicopter sales hub at the Dutchess County Airport.

Today, AAG is metropolitan New York's only integrated services executive helicopter company. AAG employs 75 people, including 20 pilots and flight operations personnel working from 58,000 square feet of hangar and office space at the Dutchess County Airport.

Since its expansion to Dutchess County, AAG has prospered, building an exclusive customer base and maintaining a reputation for high quality and reliability. A documented sequence of successes demonstrates AAG's steady upward climb. On October 5, 2008 in Orlando Florida, at a meeting of the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA), AAG announced the formation of AAG Global™, an international

(MORE)

network of executive helicopter operators. AAG Global™ is a brand of Sikorsky Fractional Sales, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation. Not long after, on October 17, AAG Global™ announced that they had already signed their first international AAG Global™ Member Operator.

Associated Aircraft Group in Dutchess County is an AAG Global™ Member Operator, and the *leading* executive helicopter charter, fractional sales and aircraft management company in New York State. Member Operators of AAG Global™ serve a growing registry of international travelers seeking seamless helicopter transport service, safety, and reliability, regardless of where in the world they travel.

Fast-forward to February 23, 2008, when AAG Global™ and PremiAir—a leading provider of executive helicopter charter and management services in the United Kingdom—announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in which PremiAir stated its intention to become the inaugural European Member Operator of AAG Global™. PremiAir and AAG Global made the announcement of the MOU jointly in Anaheim, California during Heli Expo, the annual meeting of the Helicopter Association International.

Says Dutchess County Executive, William R. Steinhaus, “Our County Government-owned airport is one of our key economic development assets. This is evinced by AAG’s continuous growth and success since they made the decision to locate their headquarters in Dutchess. AAG came to Dutchess County as a small company and have now become international operators. Their success is just another example of how small, diverse businesses have helped shape Dutchess County’s strategy through economic diversity.”

According to AAG Global™ Executive Vice President Tom McQuade, “PremiAir is a long-established and successful business aviation services company built on the

(MORE)

core principles of customer service, high quality, value, and trust.”

PermiAir has been operating in and around London for more than 30 years, providing aircraft charter, management, and maintenance services. In 2007, the company was acquired by von Essen, which also purchased the London Heliport, which is managed and operated by PremiAir.

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The Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation (DCEDC) is a private, nonprofit organization serving the cities, towns, and villages of Dutchess County. Funded annually by the County, the County’s Industrial Development Agency, and through private-sector investment, the DCEDC supports and promotes business development in Dutchess County through a variety of business attraction, expansion, and entrepreneurial development programs.

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