

Airport receives mockup jet donation

The Hansen Air Group has donated a SW 21 concept jet to The Mt. Vernon Outland Airport to be incorporated into a new entryway sign

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MT. VERNON — A new sight will soon greet visitors of the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport, a mockup SW 21 concept jet.

According to Airport Director Chris Collins who made the announcement last week, acquiring the model as a donation has been in the works since earlier this year.

"While I was at Sebring [Fla.] in January I met with the Hansen Air Group ...," said Collins. "They want to donate this concept jet to the

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airport for what is called a gate guard. A lot of airports have an airplane out on a post or pedestal by the entryway coming in. It is a 600-pound fiberglass resin concept mockup of a jet airplane from the Czech Republic. There is some legal maneuvering going on with this airplane about the Hansens coming up with ownership. As soon as they become the rightful owners then they want to donate it to the airport."

The plane is reportedly 23 feet long and 7 feet wide. It is already packed in shipping crates ready to be picked up by a representative from the airport. The Hansen Air Group is a sales, service, and rental company for light sport aircraft with offices in Georgia and California. Mounting is already attached to the concept jet.

According to Collins, the Hansen Air Group obtained the mockup after last year's Airventure Cup Race. They would like to donate it to the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport due to the airport's involvement in the LSA (light sport aircraft) industry.

"There has already been one opinion about could we incorporate this into our new entry sign," continued Collins. "Wouldn't that be neat, lit up at night with the lights on? There will be some study and some engineering to do that."

The SW 21 jet on which the mockup is based is entirely made of carbon which includes entire aircraft as

well as almost all the technical components. The maximum speed at full throttle is approximately 430 kilometers per hour and the cruising speed is approximately 360 kilometers per hour.

The updating of the sign outside the airport is a component in the airport's long term Momentum 2020 capital development plan. The airport's wooden, externally lighted entry sign has been in place since 1975 and will be replaced with a modern unit. The installation of the mockup SW 21 will coincide with the placement of the new sign. Though the donation of the fiberglass jet is free, the sign is estimated to cost \$25,000. There is no set date for the sign installation.

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Submitted Photo

GATE GUARD — The Hansen Air Group is donating an SW 21 concept jet to the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport to act as a gate guard. The airport plans to incorporate the mockup jet into their new sign to be installed. 3-15-16