

State of the Airport presented

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MT. VERNON — Operations at the Mt. Vernon Airport in 2012 were 23,050 — up slightly from 22,928 in 2011, and based tenancy continues to grow with 48 aircraft registered, including 10 multi-engine aircraft.

Other facts presented during the 2013 State of the Airport released at Tuesday's Airport Authority meeting included several "only" categories for the local airport including:

- It is the only airport in the state to host a national aviation event sponsored by a California based aviation magazine.

- It is the only civilian airport in the state to host a U.S. Military Airlift consisting of 441 Illinois National Guardsmen and several aircraft.

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- It is the only airport in the state that is the permanent home to a U.S. military Hall of Honor, Veterans Museum, and Heroes Memorial.

- It is the only airport in the state that is home to two different aircraft dealerships.

- It is home to the only FAA designated pilot examiner in the southern end of the state not affiliated with an educational institution or Part 141 operation.

- Is it home to the only full service avionics maintenance operator in the southern end of the state.

- And it is home to one of only four downstate airports with a full staffed on-site restaurant.

In completing his term as president, Greg Martin congratulated Manager Chris Collins and his staff for the airport operation.

Mike Ancona was elected chairman of the Authority following reorganization. Martin was nominated as vice president, Dr. David Asbery secretary, and Gary Chesney treasurer by acclamation following Chesney's nomination.

Collins reported bids were received on April 26 for the ramp portion of the Innovation Park project. Kieffer Brothers, based in Mt. Carmel, submitted the low of \$393,484. With engineers' fees added on, the total project cost is now estimated to be \$482,632, with the local share being approximately \$25,000. The state and federally-funded project through the Illinois Department of Transportation's Aeronautics Division will be approximately \$123,000 under budget.

The Authority approved two change orders for Innovation Park — engineering fees to Hanson & Associates; and rock and clay used to build up the foundation, which had to be

rebuilt following a wet spring. Collins said the project should begin in full force, weather permitting, today.

IN OTHER ACTION:

- David Kieffer, an independent auditor from Olney, presented the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year audit, which was approved by commissioners. The audit showed a loss of \$11,512, although the Authority purchased a \$28,000 van during the time period, and the LSA Expo was placed in a separate account, showing a \$10,000 loss. Without the van purchase and had the Expo been placed in the General Fund, the Authority would've shown a \$26,000 surplus, according to Collins.

- A bid of \$2,400 from ESA, a Missouri company, was approved to remove and replace a pump for a lift station on airport property.

- And commissioners approved a resolution to host the annual Salute to Freedom celebration on July 4.