

Outland Airport opens the sky to sales

BY DANIELLE TYLER
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — "Momentum" was the word of the day when the Mt. Vernon Airport Authority announced its newest addition Tuesday morning.

Now onboard is an Expedition Aircraft dealership and a Jabiru USA dealership, thanks to the airport's aviation sales business, Eric Evans Aviation Ltd.

"This is a historic day for the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport and the city of Mt. Vernon," Airport Director Chris Collins stated. "Eric Evans Aviation Ltd., the Expedition Air-

craft dealership, and the Jabiru USA dealership offer prestige for the airport, will increase aircraft operations, will provide multiple maintenance opportunities for our fixed-based operation, SRT, and will provide new tax revenues and could lead to some exciting opportunities for the future."

It all began, Evans told the crowd, with the partnership with the airport's fixed based operator, SRT.

"It all started pretty simple," Evans said. "Through that process, I started to meet local aviation clients."

Eric Evans Aviation, Ltd., located

inside the Koziara Terminal, sells all types of aircraft, ranging from piston engine singles to twin-engine business jets. According to a press release, the Expedition E-350 and E-350-XC, are known as "the ultimate go anywhere, do anything aircraft."

The King City Expedition dealership covers all areas east of the Mississippi River and the Caribbean, making Eric Evans Aviation the exclusive Eastern United States dealer of the Expedition.

The Jabiru sport aircraft is a light

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Sentinel Photo/DANIELLE TYLER

MOVING MOMENTUM — Originally from Evansville, Eric Evans of Eric Evans Aviation, Ltd., announced yesterday that Mt. Vernon Outland Airport would be the new home of an Expedition Aircraft dealership and a Jabiru USA dealership.

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sport aircraft, or what Evans calls the "SUV (Sport Utility Vehicle) of airplanes" first flown in 1991. Since that time, the design has accumulated over 500,000 flight hours all over the world.

In the spring of 2007, officials from the Jabiru assem-

bly plant in Shelbyville, Tenn., visited the Mt. Vernon airport. Once Evans made his commitment, the Jabiru dealership and Mt. Vernon idea was explored.

Evans was recently awarded the dealership to offer the Jabiru J-170, J-230, J-250 and J-450 lines in Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky.

"It's really the efforts of a whole team," Evans said.

"This is a great day for the city of Mt. Vernon," Mayor

Mary Jane Chesley said. "Your momentum is showing."

Chesley likened the MVAA to the "pistons" of the airport and characterized Collins as the "spark plug."

"You make my job easier and you make us look good," Chesley said. "This wasn't easy. It took a family of people with goals and hard work. We appreciate what you have done. Your momentum is showing and the city of Mt. Vernon thanks you."

Evans said the decision to make the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport his home and business base was an easy one.

"This airport is is fantastic," Evans said. "The grounds here are one of the best in Illinois, if not the United States. This airport will be here for a long time."

For more information on Eric Evans Aviation, people can visit www.eric-evans-aviation.com.

dtyler@morningsentinel.com