

5/27/06

Airport 'leaps forward'

Manager: New FBO
brings prestige, tax
revenue, high-tech jobs

By MARY KAYE DAVIS

mary.kaye@register-news.com

MT. VERNON — The new fixed base operator at Mt. Vernon Outland-Airport "will bring prestige" to the local airport, bring in tax revenue and offer high-tech jobs for the community, according to Airport Director Chris Collins.

Collins announced Monday that on June 1, SRT Aviation will operate the FBO and establish a turbine-engine repair and refurbishment center in the near future.

"The addition of SRT Aviation to Team MVN represents a quantum leap forward for our airport," Collins said. "SRT Aviation will give our local airport prestige among the national aviation community, will provide tax revenues for our local community and offer high-technology employment opportunities for

see AIRPORT/Page 5A

AIRPORT

continued from 1A

community residents. I am particularly excited how the high level of industry/aircraft sophistication their personnel possess. SRT Aviation's combined level of expertise is unparalleled at any general aviation airport within a 200-mile radius of Mt. Vernon."

The FBO portion of the business involves aircraft refueling, provides basic services to transient pilots, performs aircraft maintenance, and operates and oversees the airport's ground-to-air communications, Collins explained.

"SRT Aviation's line service department will utilize Mt. Vernon Outland Airport's long

runway, instrument landing system and heavy capacity apron to attract fuel customers from all of general aviation, including corporate flight departments, air cargo operators and the United States Military," Collins explained.

SRT holds many aviation and service credentials, including private, instrument and commercial flight ratings.

SRT Aviation's turbine-engine based maintenance operation is centered around the executive/business aviation fleet and will offer expertise on Beechcraft King Air and Beechjet, Cessna Citation, Dassault Falcon, Gulfstream, Hawker and Learjet.

The company brings with it three airframe and powerplant inspected authorization technicians to the airport, Collins

said.

"SRT's turbine engine experience will position Mt. Vernon Outland Airport for the very light jet/small aircraft transportation system and many other upcoming changes throughout the aviation industry," Collins said. "Major airframe and powerplant maintenance services by SRT Aviation on all types of general aviation aircraft will be available beginning July 1."

Alan Hale, Mt. Vernon Airport Authority Chairman, said the new FBO operation will redefine the potential of aviation in the state and the Midwest.

"As (the employees) relocate their families into our community, may we all make them feel welcome," Hale said.