

Mount Vernon Airport announces purchase of SRT Aviation

Airport Authority will now control fixed base operations

BY TRAVIS MORSE

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MOUNT VERNON — In a transaction set to close later in November, Mount Vernon Airport Authority has announced that it will purchase SRT Aviation.

SRT Aviation has provided fixed base operations (FBO) at the Mount Vernon Outland Airport since June of 2006, making it the longest serving FBO in the airport's history, states an airport news release. SRT Aviation is one of the few FAA certified repair stations in downstate Illinois.

Fixed base operations typically refers to fuel sales, aircraft maintenance, flight instruction and aircraft rentals. The airport used to handle its own FBO from 1989 to 2000. Then from 2000 to 2006, AirEvac provided the fixed base operations. That changed in 2006, when SRT Aviation started to provide the FBO.

In 2008, Mount Vernon Airport began sharing the refueling part of the fixed base operations with SRT, but SRT still handled the maintenance duties. Now, Mount

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Vernon Airport Authority's acquisition of SRT Aviation's maintenance department places the airport authority in direct control of all FBO services, the news release states.

The acquisition has created a new entity, SRT Flightline, which boasts an experienced aircraft maintenance department with an extensive list of customers from Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky and Indiana, the release states.

"It's all about retention and control," said Airport Director Chris Collins of the acquisition. "The airport operator controls the pricing, pricing drives aircraft operations and aircraft operations dictate FAA grant funding."

Mount Vernon Airport Authority (MVAA) Chairman Mike Ancona said that he is excited that the SRT aircraft technicians have decided to join the MVAA family.

"I believe (that) we can expand our existing maintenance, repair and overhaul services to bring more revenue to Mount Vernon," Ancona said.

The MVAA Board of Commissioners approved the acquisition agreement on Tuesday,

Nov. 12, pending review of legal counsel, which happened on Friday, Nov. 15.

"Legal counsel is drafting final documents and we will close officially (on the acquisition) on the 26th of November," Collins said.

Collins said that the Airport Board has been discussing the acquisition on and off in executive session for about six months, trying to formulate the best way forward to make the deal happen.

"It hasn't been an easy process, and obviously as big a step as it is, it needed a lot of scrutiny and study," Collins said.

To create the new SRT Flightline, airport officials have merged SRT Aviation with the airport's Flightline Aero Services. This essentially returns total FBO control to the airport, similar to what was in place from 1989 to 2000, Collins said.

SRT Flightline will be led by Director of Maintenance Shawn Sayle, who has more than 30 years of experience in aviation maintenance. His team includes three Airframe/Powerplant Technicians and one apprentice technician.

"After 18-and-a-half amazing years as owner/operator of SRT Aviation, Inc., it is a privilege to be offered a plan to maintain the legacy as

longest FBO in the history of this amazing airport," Sayle said. "It is not the easiest to function as a small business in the state of Illinois. But we have been strengthened by a team that we have grown to love, respect and (that) shares our same values of safety, professionalism and quality. We look forward to what is yet to come, and feel great that we will maintain a strong customer base that grows each day and extends across the continental USA and beyond."

For more information on this acquisition, contact Mount Vernon Airport. 11-19-24