



PREMIER Expansion Press release final

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **PREMIER AVIATION INC. ANNOUNCES THE EXPANSION OF ITS AIRLINE MAINTENANCE SERVICES TO THE U.S.**

**Premier Aviation Ltd. Rome, New York** – Directly following last week’s announcement of the expansion of its headquarter facility in Trois Rivieres, Quebec, Premier Aviation Inc. announced today, the expansion of its services to the U.S. Premier Aviation Ltd. has completed the acquisition of the assets of the Empire Aero center in Rome, New York located at the Griffiss International airport. Premier will offer Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul services to all types of aircraft including military and commercial.

The 379,000 sq. ft hangar consists of three wide body bays and a 50,000 sq. ft. strip and paint facility, thus allowing for service to narrow body and wide body aircraft. Premier Aviation intends to create new jobs as the company expands. The deal is viewed as a win-win situation. The expansion to the United States allows for specialization and flexibility in Premier’s new and existing aircraft maintenance services and adds a prime U.S location, while at the same time honoring and expanding existing contracts and creating new jobs concurrent with the companies growth strategy.

Mr. Ronnie Di Bartolo, President and CEO of Premier says, “ We are delighted to be able to service our clients within the United States. This move is client driven; our Canadian facility has been consistently filled to capacity. This expansion is beneficial to all concerned. With the acquisition of the New York facility, Premier has become an international company. We look forward to offering the same quality service we have been reputed to offer as well as to servicing different types of aircraft.”

Fred Tillman, Chairperson of Griffiss Local Development Corporation noted that one of the hallmarks in the history of Griffiss has been the strong relationship that exists between the United States and Canada. “It is fitting to see a successful Canadian company choose to expand its presence by establishing its United States location here at Griffiss.”

John Buffa, Chairperson of Mohawk Valley EDGE praised the Premier commitment. “Today’s announcement is the product of months of hard work between Premier, Israel Aerospace International officials, government, and area economic development officials who devoted countless hours to leverage the aviation assets that have been developed at Griffiss and take

advantage of the region's skilled aviation work force.”

Steve DiMeo, President of Mohawk Valley EDGE said “Premier’s decision is a reflection of the strategic investments and commitments that have been made at Griffiss over the past fifteen years. Once again, Griffiss has proven that it can be the first choice location to businesses wishing to expand.”

With the workforce in place and the first contracts already rolling in, Premier has proven its confidence in the Aviation industry and in itself. Mr. Di Bartolo states, “We will take a measured approach to ramp up this facility and want to make sure we assemble a strong team. Premier prides itself on quality and customer service. Our customers are our business and we will instill and maintain the same level of training and focus in the U.S. as we have always done in Canada.”

#### About Premier Aviation

Premier Aviation is an aircraft Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) Services Company owned and operated by Ronnie Di Bartolo with its head office in Trois Rivieres, Quebec. Since its inception in 2002 the company has maintained a steady growth of clients and services.