

For Immediate Release

## Macon - Eastman - Warner Robins Development Groups Exhibit at Aviation Week Trade Show

**Macon, GA (April 20, 2007)** - Georgia's Aviation Alley, Macon-Bibb, Eastman-Dodge, and Warner Robins-Houston, exhibited at the Aviation Week MRO (maintenance, repair and overhaul) Trade Show in Atlanta, GA April 16 - 19, 2007. This annual trade show and conference brings together leading aviation companies, suppliers and vendors from the military and commercial sectors to network, hear updates on industry trends and to establish business contacts. Nearly 5,000 attended this year's event held at the Cobb Galleria in Atlanta.

"Aerospace and Aviation were identified as a target industry for Macon-Bibb County in 2001," states Pat Topping, Senior Vice President of the Macon Economic Development Commission. "This conference puts us in front of the people we want to promote Macon-Bibb and the region to," continues Topping. "We decided to include our partners in Houston County and Eastman-Dodge County to showcase our region, Georgia's Aviation Corridor, to the airlines, parts manufacturers, and other aviation suppliers attending the show," Topping stated.

"Georgia has over 83,000 skilled workers employed in aviation/aerospace industry," states Morgan Law, Executive Director of the Houston County Development Authority. "This includes the 26,000 plus workers at Robins Air Force Base, the largest industrial complex in the state," continues Law. "Gov. Perdue has identified Aerospace/Aviation as a strategic industry and established the Aviation Innovation Center to foster innovation, the growth of existing companies and to recruit new companies to our state," according to Law.

"Georgia has invested heavily in the aerospace/aviation industry," states Josh Fenn, President of the Eastman-Dodge County Chamber of Commerce. "The state has established aerospace programs at many of our technical colleges including the acclaimed training program at the Aviation College of Georgia that was recently combined with programs at Middle Georgia College in Cochran to make it even stronger," Fenn states.

Georgia's Aerospace/Aviation industry includes over 83,000 skilled workers, over 530 companies and suppliers and an annual impact of over \$5 billion.

The Macon Economic Development Commission is the private/public partnership responsible for recruiting new business and industry to Macon and Bibb County in Georgia and for the retention of established companies. If you would like more information on economic development in Macon, please contact Patrick Topping, CECD, Senior Vice President at 478-621-2030 or visit [www.maconworks.com](http://www.maconworks.com).



Pictured from left to right: Josh Fenn, Pat Topping, and Morgan Law