

HondaJet was a 2007 project of the City of High Point and other local governments. Honda Aircraft Co. established its campus on the grounds of Piedmont Triad International Airport, which is less than a mile from the High Point city limits.

Honda announces \$80 million expansion, 419 more jobs, at PTI

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Honda Aircraft Co. has chosen Piedmont Triad International Airport for a \$80 million expansion that includes a new maintenance and repair and overhaul (MRO) center and the addition of 419 new jobs over the next five years.

Salaries will vary by job function, but the average wage for the new jobs will be \$53,418, plus benefits. The Guilford County average annual wage is \$39,520.

The new jobs would be in addition to the 650 or so that already work for Honda at PTI, where the company is developing a new \$4.5 million corporate jet, known at the HondaJet. PTI is home to the company's world headquarters and main manufacturing facility.

The company expects to begin delivery on the first jets in 2013.

Honda officials said the Triad is still under consideration for a parts-making plant and warehouse and distribution facility.

Gov. Bev Perdue and U.S. Senator Kay Hagan were present for the announcement.

Honda Aircraft's MRO facility, which will cost an estimated \$20 million for construction alone, will be part of a network of service centers in the North America and Europe to offer service and repairs to HondaJet owners. The balance of the investment, roughly \$60 million, includes site preparation, equipment and other items, a Honda official said.

"We intend to offer HondaJet customers an overall ownership experience that is second to none in business aviation and one that is commensurate with all the best attributes of Honda," said Michimasa Fujino, president and CEO of Honda Aircraft.

The selection of North Carolina also underscores Honda's continued, significant investment in the HondaJet program, and its commitment to the Piedmont Triad region of North Carolina.

"Honda's decision to expand their Greensboro facility validates the strength and vitality of our aviation cluster, and their plan to invest an additional \$80 million and create 419 more high-paying jobs demonstrates Honda's commitment to our community and to the entire state of North Carolina," said Dan Lynch, president of the Greensboro Economic Development Alliance.

For future expansion purposes, Honda Aircraft has leased 54 additional acres at PTI Airport. The new MRO facility will make use of 20 of these acres. With current and future expansion, Honda Aircraft is leasing more than 130 acres at PTI Airport.

Design of the MRO facility, which is expected to encompass more than 80,000 square feet, will be finalized in the first quarter of 2012, with construction scheduled to begin in the second quarter of 2012, and occupancy to begin in the first half of 2013. This timing supports the HondaJet's scheduled certification and entry into service in mid-2013.

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