

News Release

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Detroit Metropolitan Airport Debuts New Enclosure to Reduce Aircraft Noise

--\$11M facility is a significant part of Airport's Noise Compatibility Program

Romulus, Mich. (July 24, 2012)—Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA), operator of Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW), joined neighboring community leaders in inaugurating the airport's new, \$11 million **Ground Run-Up Enclosure (GRE)**. This three-sided, steel structure on the airfield is lined with acoustical absorbent paneling to significantly reduce noise in neighboring communities when jet engines are tested after maintenance.

"We always talk about the positive impact that the Airport has on the surrounding community, but those closest to the airport will tell you there are some less-desirable impacts as well," said **WCAA Interim CEO Tom Naughton**. "To the degree we can mitigate the noise impact of the airport on our neighbors with initiatives such as this new GRE, the Airport Authority is committed to do so."

After making repairs, airlines regularly "run-up" aircraft engines for testing purposes before the aircraft are returned to service. This testing requires airlines to run engines up to full-power for periods of time ranging from a few minutes to an hour, generating noise up to the equivalent of an aircraft take-off throughout part or all of that time period.

With the new GRE, airlines will taxi aircraft into the three-sided facility to conduct nearly all run-ups. Engine noise will largely be absorbed by the more than 2,000 acoustical panels lining the structure, while the remaining noise will be directed upward rather than outward into surrounding communities. Prior to the GRE opening, airlines performed these tests in designated open areas adjacent to the airport's runways.

DTW's new GRE occupies nearly 90,000 sq. ft. and rises 42 ft. high, allowing it to accommodate aircraft as large as Boeing's 747-8. Most aircraft types that will use the GRE will be able to turn around inside the facility while operating under their own power, reducing the need for diesel-powered aircraft tugs and additional personnel required for tug operations. The facility also incorporates steel cladding specially-engineered to avoid interference with airfield radar and radio frequencies.

"The Wayne County Airport Authority has laudably engaged in continuing efforts to minimize disturbances to the residents of southeastern Michigan, while at the same time acting as a job provider and economic engine for the entire region," said **Michigan State Representative Doug Geiss**. "This new ground run-up enclosure will significantly reduce the level of noise caused by nighttime maintenance, and its construction provides

further testament to the commitment of the Airport Authority to the citizens of Romulus and surrounding communities."

The \$11 million GRE project was engineered by the Livonia, Mich. office of Syracuse, NY-based **C&S Companies** and designed and constructed by Reno, Nev.-based **Blast Deflectors, Inc.** as a subcontractor to **Dan's Excavating, Inc.** the project's prime contractor. **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)** provided 80% of the project funding, which included Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation of 8%.

About Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport

Having welcomed more than 32 million passengers in 2011, **Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW)** is Michigan's busiest airport and one of the world's leading air transportation hubs. With service from 11 scheduled passenger airlines and three scheduled cargo carriers, DTW offers more than 1200 flights per day to and from nearly 150 destinations on four continents. In 2010, DTW ranked highest in overall customer satisfaction among large airports in the *J.D. Power and Associates North America Airport Satisfaction Study*. With two new, state-of-the-art passenger terminals, six jet runways, and an onsite AAA Four-Diamond Westin hotel, DTW is among the world's most efficient, customer friendly and operationally capable airports in North America. DTW is operated by **Wayne County Airport Authority**, which also operates nearby **Willow Run Airport**—an important corporate, cargo and general aviation facility. The Airport Authority is entirely self-sustaining and does not receive any tax dollars to support airport operations. For more information about Metro Detroit's airports, visit www.metroairport.com.

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