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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Macon, GA (May 18, 2009)– Georgia’s “Aerospace Corridor”, the communities of Macon-Bibb, Eastman-Dodge, and Warner Robins-Houston, exhibited at the Aviation Week MRO (maintenance, repair and overhaul) Trade Show in Grapevine, TX April 21-23, 2009. 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 Gaylord Texan Resort near Dallas, TX.

“Aerospace and Aviation were identified as a target industry segment for Macon-Bibb County in 2001,” states Pat Topping, Senior Vice President of the Macon Economic Development Commission. “This trade show puts us in front of the people we want to promote Macon-Bibb and the region to,” continues Topping. “This is the 3rd year we have used a regional approach at the Trade Show showcasing the aerospace strengths of the three counties 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 Aerospace Innovation Center in middle Georgia as Georgia’s “one-stop-shop” for the industry. The Center, led by industry veterans, capitalizes on university research assets to foster innovation and growth, and to recruit new companies to our state,” according to Law.

“Georgia has invested heavily in the aerospace/aviation industry,” states Adon Clark, Chairman of the Aviation Campus of Middle GA Technical College in Eastman. “The state has established aerospace programs at many of our technical colleges including the acclaimed training program on the Eastman campus,” Clark states.

Georgia’s Aerospace/Aviation industry includes over 83,000 skilled workers, over 530 companies and suppliers with 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.