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Detroit Metropolitan Airport honored for safety, engineering and paving excellence

--Three awards presented today

Detroit, Mich. (March 12, 2013)—Three awards bestowed upon **Detroit Metropolitan Airport** were presented to the **Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA)** Board at its meeting today.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Great Lakes Region presented a *2012 Safety Award* for safety enhancements and operational improvements at Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW). FAA recognized the Airport's Pavement Management Program, the new Ground Run-up Enclosure, and the adoption of a Safety Management System framework to "...successfully manage the busy, daily operation and ongoing airfield pavement rehabilitation projects."

Personnel training enhancements in transitioning to a Learning Management System were also acknowledged by FAA. **John Mayfield**, FAA's Manager Detroit Airports District Office, was on hand at the meeting to present the award in person.

"The management at Detroit Metropolitan Airport has demonstrated a commendable commitment to safety through numerous initiatives over the past several years," wrote **Susan Mowery-Schalk**, Manager of the Great Lakes Region's Airports Division. "All of the safety enhancements and operational improvements have directly contributed to the recent 'no discrepancy' finding during the FAA's Periodic Certification/Safety Inspection. The Airport's accomplishments are noteworthy and deserving of FAA's recognition."

"These are projects and initiatives which occur out of the public's eye, but which our customers appreciate when their flights arrive and depart safely on our airfield," said **WCAA CEO Tom Naughton**.

Kerry Sutton of the **Michigan Concrete Association** also appeared at today's meeting to present a *2013 Award of Excellence* for DTW's \$11 million Ground Run-up Enclosure (GRE) completed last summer. The GRE project included the construction of a 550-foot concrete taxiway and a 76,000 square-foot concrete ramp totaling more than 25,000 cubic yards of concrete. More than 50 projects from across the State were considered for awards.

Ronald Brenke, Executive Director of **American Council of Engineering Companies of Michigan** presented the third award, an Engineering *Merit Award* also for the GRE project. This 90,000 square-foot, three-sided, 42 foot-tall, steel structure on the airfield is lined with more than 2,000 noise-absorbing acoustical panels that reduce noise exposure from 20 square miles to 2.2 square miles when jet engines are tested after maintenance. It is the largest jet blast deflector ever built in North America and is used an average of three times per day.

“ACEC presents awards to projects that show engineering innovation and the use of new techniques to improve the quality of life for the users,” said Brenke. “This project confirms what our program is all about – finding a unique solution that will greatly benefit the owner and the surrounding community.”

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.

The new GRE allows airlines to taxi aircraft into the three-sided facility to conduct nearly all run-ups. Engine noise is largely absorbed and 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 can accommodate aircraft as large as Boeing’s 747-8. Most aircraft types that use the GRE are 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 overall GRE project was engineered by the Livonia, Mich. office of Syracuse, NY-based **C&S Companies**. The actual steel structure was designed and constructed by Reno, Nevada-based **Blast Deflectors, Inc.** as a subcontractor to **Dan’s Excavating, Inc.** the project’s prime contractor. FAA provided 80% of the project funding.

“The Airport Authority is deeply gratified to have received these awards, as our constant emphasis and our top organizational value is safety,” said Naughton. “The Ground Run-up Enclosure is a very important component of our endeavor to be good neighbors with the community of Romulus which surrounds the airport.”

These three awards were originally presented in February at conferences held in Lansing, Plymouth and Detroit.

About Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport

Having welcomed more than 32 million passengers in 2012, **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 1,100 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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