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International Aviation Group Expands to Chesapeake

Hampton Roads, VA - The Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance is pleased to announce Laurence Walter Aerospace Solutions (LWAS) has chosen Chesapeake for its newest U.S. location.

A win for Hampton Roads, the LWAS announcement carries an initial capital investment of \$1 million and 10 jobs anticipated within 6 months.

A subsidiary of U.K. headquartered MEL Group, LTD - a full service provider of engineering solutions to the aerospace and defense related industries - LWAS specializes in the repair and overhaul of aircraft components including oxygen cylinders, oxygen regulators, fire suppression systems and environmental systems. Civil airline customers include British Airways, Virgin Atlantic, Monarch, BMI and Saudi Arabian airlines. Military customers include UK MOD and BAE Systems.

"While considering expansion locations in the U.S.," said LWAS exec, Nick Harvey, "Hampton Roads was a forerunner from the get-go. The strength of the aviation industry and support firms in Hampton Roads was an immediate draw. We couldn't be more pleased with our decision."

The 9500 SF facility located at 1105-A International Plaza in Chesapeake will also serve as a U.S. sales office.

"We are pleased to welcome yet another international company, Laurence Walter Aerospace Solutions (LWAS), to Chesapeake's business community. Chesapeake continues to serve as a world-class business environment for global companies seeking a central location and access to multiple markets," said Steven Wright, Director of Economic Development for the City of Chesapeake.

The Alliance first met with MEL Group representatives in June 2008 during their inaugural visit to Hampton Roads.

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