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Blackhawk Opens Product Development Facility in North Carolina – Appoints Jeff Raines as Director

Waco, Texas (February 27, 2008) – Blackhawk Modifications announced the acquisition of a new product development facility in Elizabethtown, North Carolina. The new hangar is on Curtis Brown Field (EYF) and will host a team of experts to expand Blackhawk’s portfolio of FAA-Approved Supplemental Type Certificates (STC). Jeff Raines has been appointed as the Special Projects Director and will lead the team. Most recently, Raines was the Director of STC Programs at Standard Aero and oversaw the research and development of turbine engine upgrades.

For almost a decade, the Blackhawk XP brand of engine upgrades has become increasingly popular among turboprop owners and operators. “This new division within Blackhawk gives us the balance to push forward with new products without diverting attention from the growing demand of our existing products and customers,” said Jim Allmon, Blackhawk President and CEO. “Blackhawk is fortunate to have found a qualified engine and airframe upgrade expert such as Jeff who brings with him an intricate network and knowledge of the STC certification and conversion process.”

In addition to Raines, Blackhawk named Bill Brooks as the Technical Services & Special Projects Coordinator of the North Carolina division. Brooks also comes to Blackhawk from Standard Aero where he was a Pratt & Whitney PT6 Engine Customer Program Representative. “Innovation and forward thinking solutions characterize Blackhawk’s approach to problem solving,” said Raines. “It is hard to watch a proactive company like Blackhawk from the sidelines especially when they are moving in the direction that is in line with my ideals.”

About Blackhawk Modifications:

Blackhawk Modifications is the leading turboprop aircraft engine upgrade company in the world specializing in King Air 90 and 200 series aircraft as well as Conquest I and Cheyenne series. Headquartered in Waco, Texas, Blackhawk has now equipped over 160 turboprop aircraft with the Pratt & Whitney XP engine upgrade since 2000 and continues to certify value adding enhancements designed to increase the usefulness and safety of the turboprop fleet.

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