

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 15, 2011

Contact: Mr. Michael St. Jean – Airport Manager
Virginia Tech-Montgomery County Executive Airport
Phone: (540) 231-4444

Contact: Mr. Keith Holt – Airport Manager
New River Valley Airport
Phone: (540) 674-4141

Contact: Mr. Aric Bopp – Executive Director
New River Valley Economic Development Alliance
Phone: (540) 267-0007
E-mail: abopp@nrvalliance.org
Website: www.nrvairport.org

Report Finds \$14.8 Million Economic Impact of Region's General Aviation Airports

A report conducted by the Virginia Department of Aviation found that the two general aviation airports in the New River Valley contribute \$14.8 million in regional economic impact and \$15.3 million economic impact state-wide. The report explored the economic impact of 66 airports across the Commonwealth, including the two airports in our region, the Virginia Tech – Montgomery County Executive Airport, and the New River Valley Airport.

Both airports' offer the region superb access to our nation's air transportation system for corporate, business and recreational flyers. The Virginia Tech – Montgomery County Executive Airport offers convenient access to the Virginia Tech Campus and adjacent Corporate Research Center, and the New River Valley Airport opens the region up to international flights and commerce with the availability of US Customs Port of Entry #1412.

“The convenience and condition of our local airports are critical assets companies consider when looking at locating a business,” said Aric Bopp, Director of the New River Valley Alliance “business aviation offers a company convenience and flexibility to travel in a fast passed business environment.”

In addition to supporting corporate and business users, the region's airports also support over 130-jobs with \$3.6 million in payroll. These jobs may include hospitality and tourism jobs for recreational travelers or corporate jobs in logistics or flight operations.

“You can’t overlook the importance these airports play in the overall economic picture of our region” said Bopp. “We are fortunate to have two great aviation facilities that have room to grow and support our regions future economic development needs.”

The report concluded that Virginia’s airports contribute \$28.8 billion in economic activity state-wide and create or sustain 259,000 jobs. Full copies of the report are available on the Division of Aviation’s website at: <http://www.doav.virginia.gov/>

###