



For Immediate Release  
May 7, 2009

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**Austin's Newest Airport is Now Austin Executive Airport**

***Airport Announces Runway Extension as Part of Ongoing Renovations***

AUSTIN-- (May 7, 2009) – Pilots around the state of Texas are cheering – and soon, landing – at the newest airport in Central Texas. Formerly known as Bird's Nest Airport, the general aviation facility will now be called Austin Executive Airport with a new identifier of KEDC. Located northeast of Austin, the airport will feature a new 6,025-foot runway. The announcement was made by airport owner and developer Ron Henriksen.

"The name change to Austin Executive reflects the mission we have for the airport," said Henriksen. "We are establishing a first class general aviation facility that will be a direct benefit to both the aviation community, as well as the Austin area."

Henriksen, a Houston businessman and pilot continues to attract national attention with aviation ventures in Texas. Henriksen privately funded and built Houston Executive Airport which opened in January 2007. He purchased Bird's Nest just months later in October 2007 due to the dire need for a general aviation facility in the Austin area. The airport is located on the new State Highway 130, 12 miles northeast of downtown Austin.

"Austin is one of the largest cities in the country without a general reliever airport," said Henriksen. "This airport is sorely needed and I am thrilled to play a role in breathing new life into the airport."

Henriksen purchased the airport in October 2007 with an eye toward upgrading the facility to meet the needs of a seriously under-served aviation population in Austin. The airport's runway will be extended from 4,420-feet to 6,025-feet with construction beginning immediately. Long-range plans include building a new entry road to State Highway 130, paving a ramp area with aircraft tie downs, a

corporate hangar, building additional T-hangars, installing airport lighting, and installing a fuel facility.

Houston Executive Airport Executive Director, Andrew D. Perry, A.A.E. explained that the State of Texas has been trying to restore general aviation capacity to the Austin area for over a decade. "Our improvements at Austin Executive will have far-reaching impact on the general aviation community," said Perry. "But it will also be a valuable asset in attracting and retaining business to our state."

More information about the airport is available by contacting Andrew Perry at 281-945-5415 or through [www.HoustonExecutiveAirport.com](http://www.HoustonExecutiveAirport.com).

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