



6301 South Stadium Ln, Ste 111, 6301 South Stadium Ln, Ste 111,
Katy, Texas 77494
P: 281-396-2200 ■ F: 281-396-2210
E: info@katyedc.org
W: <http://www.katyedc.org>

Airport officials break ground on jet center

Dustin Wenzel , dwenzel@hcnonline.com | 15-Jun-2007

06/15/2007

Airport officials break ground on jet center

By: Dustin Wenzel , dwenzel@hcnonline.com



Houston Executive Airport owner Ron Henriksen, executive director Andrew Perry, Jay Tribble, Frank McMillwain and Howard Hill help break ground with golden shovels on the Henriksen Jet Center at the Waller County airport Friday.

"I started building this airport in Fort Bend County," said Henriksen, who saw a public outcry after he announced plans to initially build the airport near Fulshear. "I got a lot of arrows in the back. He kind of put things in perspective and told me how the political process works, and I've been indebted to him ever since."

The airport, 1900 Cardiff Road, was 100 percent private funded by Henriksen and opened for business in January after two years of planning and construction, most recently inking a deal with Chevron as its exclusive fuel supplier. Perry estimated the airport sees 350 takeoffs or landings and 60 different aircraft a week.

Henriksen said future expansion will include extending the runway from its current length of 5,050 feet to 7,604 to accommodate larger aircraft.

Why the extra four feet?

"The answer is that the longest runway at Hobby (Airport) is 7,603," he said. "So we want to be a foot longer than them."

Amid the golden shovels and 50 area business leaders on hand for the ground breaking of Henriksen Jet Center at Houston Executive Airport was news that supplemented the need for the expansion.

"The good news is, we're near capacity, and we don't even have it built yet," said HEA executive director Andrew Perry in the extreme heat. "We're already looking to expand."

The jet center, named after airport owner Ron Henriksen, is slated to be 48,000 square feet and includes a passenger lobby, pilot's lounge, theater room, weather briefing room and operations offices. Perry said the target completion date for the \$2.8 million hangar is November, while the Jet Center itself will be finished in the second quarter of 2008. The remainder of the Jet Center does not have a final price tag, as plans are not yet completed.

With few words and a grin from ear to ear, Henriksen thanked Fort Bend Precinct 3 Commissioner Andy Meyers for his guidance in dealing with the local government and business entities.