

Draft Press Release
13 January 2012

Foster helps turn first sod at £1.38m workspace development at St Angelo airport

Enterprise Minister Arlene Foster today helped turn the first sod, marking the start of construction of a new aircraft hangar at Enniskillen's St Angelo Airport.

The £1.38m workspace development project, which has been financed with assistance from the EU INTERREG IVA Programme, will see the construction of a 37,000 sq ft hangar to provide aircraft maintenance facilities at the airport.

Speaking at St Angelo Airport, Arlene Foster said: **“This important construction project represents a significant boost for St Angelo airport, Fermanagh and the wider region. The financial assistance provided by my Department is a further example of a continuing commitment to supporting enterprise and tourism in the region.”**

Expressing her support for initiatives that seek to enhance the economic infrastructure of Northern Ireland and create jobs, the Minister added: **“With the construction of these new aircraft maintenance facilities, St Angelo Airport will be able to generate greater levels of both business and leisure activity to help grow the local economy. In addition, it is envisaged that the new hangarage space could attract an aircraft maintenance company which would ultimately result in the creation of at**

least 14 highly skilled jobs in aviation, engineering and technical disciplines.”

Welcoming guests to the sod turning event, Councillor Thomas O’Reilly, Chairman of Fermanagh District Council, said: “The commencement of construction of the new aircraft maintenance facility at St Angelo Airport is an extremely welcome development for the wider ICBAN region. The project is a crucial infrastructural investment for the region and we are delighted with the level of assistance Fermanagh District Council has received from the INTERREG IVA Programme.

Cllr O’Reilly went on to say: “The new aircraft facility will provide much needed employment for the local construction sector and in the longer term it will help attract key businesses to the area and play a vital role in improving the prosperity of the area through the provision of highly skilled jobs in the aviation, engineering and technical disciplines.”

Speaking at the event, Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the SEUPB, said: “Under ICBAN’s multi-annual plan for the Central Border Region, a diverse and innovative range of projects have successfully secured funding of over €7 million from the European Union’s INTERREG IVA Programme. The work at St Angelo Airport represents a significant piece of this investment and will help to ensure greater levels of economic development and cross-border co-operation across the region.”

ICBAN Chairperson Cllr David Alcorn of Donegal County Council said: “This project is an important infrastructure investment for the cross-border region and will help attract key business to the area, not just within Northern Ireland but also to the Republic of Ireland. I would like to pay tribute to the staff of both ICBAN and Fermanagh District Council in working together towards today’s milestone event.”

Further information:

For press enquiries please contact DETI Press Office on Tel: 028 9052 9604. Out of office hours please contact the Duty Press Officer via pager number 07699 715 440 and your call will be returned.

Notes to editors:

1. The INTERREG IVA Programme is a European Union supported Structural Funds Programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) which aims to promote greater territorial cohesion between Northern Ireland, the border region of the Republic of Ireland (ROI) and Western Scotland.
2. DETI acts as Accountable Department for Enterprise and Tourism themed projects under Priority 1 of the Programme, which aims to diversify and develop the economy of the eligible region by encouraging innovation and competitiveness in enterprise and supporting business and tourism development.
3. To date DETI has provided approximately £16.5m towards 15 Enterprise and Tourism themed projects supported through the INTERREG IVA Programme, resulting in a total INTERREG investment of £35.5m.
4. The Special EU Programmes Body is a North/South Implementation Body sponsored by the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland and the Department of Finance in Ireland. It is responsible for managing two EU structural funds Programmes PEACE III and INTERREG IV designed to enhance cross-border co-operation, promote reconciliation and create a more peaceful and prosperous society. The Programmes operate within a clearly defined area including Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland.
5. The INTERREG IVA 2007-2013 Programme, funded through the European Regional Development Fund, is worth €256 million and aims to address the economic and social problems which result from the existence of borders. It has two distinct priority measures to create co-operation for a more prosperous and sustainable cross-border region. For more information on the SEUPB please visit www.seupb.eu