

A4

MONDAY

May 5, 2014

journalnow.com

Metro

Winston-Salem Journal • Editor: John X. Miller • (336) 727-7287 • news@wsjournal.com

Like Us on Facebook
Facebook.com/winstonsalemjournal

Follow us on Twitter
@JournalNow



North State Aviation takes much of airport

BY RICHARD CRAVER
Winston-Salem Journal

North State Aviation LLC is ahead of schedule on its ambitious four-year growth plan, both in terms of facility space and staffing level.

The company is expanding operations again at Smith Reynolds Airport, this time by about 60,000 square feet to give it 301,849 square feet at the 4001 N. Liberty St. facility. The space encompasses the vacant sections of the second floor and the entire third floor.

That leaves only about 8,400 square feet for airport and other use.

North State said it would spend at least \$96,000 on upgrading and repairing the new leased space. Charlie Creech, the company's

president, said Friday the expansion "insures we have the necessary office, storage and shop space to continue to grow our business."

"With a full hangar, we are rapidly approaching our employee commitment with the state of North Carolina," Creech said the company has 290 full-time employees and continues to hire.

The company pledged in January 2011 it would have at least 308 employees within four years when it was made eligible for \$300,000 in performance-based state incentives. It had 31 employees at that time.

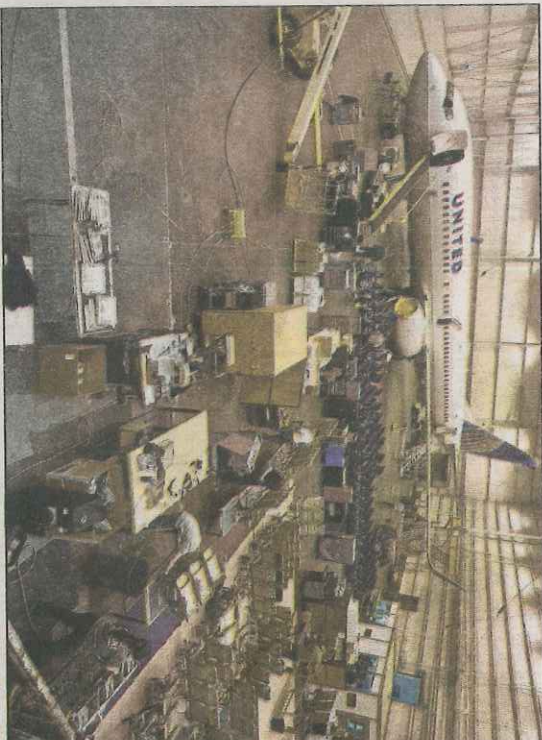
North State also has benefited from a \$500,000 grant from the Golden Leaf Foundation. That grant was given to the Airport Commission of Forsyth County

for airport infrastructure improvements.

The company in October landed a new installation contract with its largest customer, United Airlines. That contract was projected to generate 60 jobs. It involves installing a satellite-based system on 160 of United's Boeing 737-700, 800 and 900 series aircraft. The contract is scheduled to run through early 2015.

"Based on the ever-increasing work scope requests from our customers, this expansion will allow us to do virtually any structural modification and furnish back-shop space to repair, refit and refurbish removed items," Creech said. "It also positions us for heavy maintenance opportunities in the future."

AVIATION, Page A8



DAVID ROUFE/JOURNAL
A United Airlines Boeing 737-800 sits on the main hangar floor of North State Aviation in Winston-Salem.

Aviation

From Page A4

Mark Davidson, the airport's director, said North State's expansion represents a boost to revenue and also reduces the airport's utility costs by about \$39,500 annually.

"They are our largest tenant in regards to rev-

enue for the commission, and in employees," Davidson said.

Davidson said the expanded lease "is a great deal for the commission, and I'm excited we could come to terms." He said the remaining space had been difficult to lease and has been on the market for several years.

"The increase in cash

flow will assist the commission in funding several airfield-paving improvements, as well as the investments to the 4001 N. Liberty facility," Davidson said.

Creech said the commission "continues to be very supportive of our efforts."
rcraver@wsjournal.com
(336) 727-7376