

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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AERO-FLITE ANNOUNCES RELOCATION OF CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS FROM ARIZONA TO SPOKANE

(Spokane, WA) – Today, Barry Marsden, President of Conair, the parent company of Aero-Flite, Inc., (AFI) announced the relocation of AFI's corporate headquarters and maintenance base for its next generation fleet of airtankers from Arizona to Spokane International Airport. AFI has been a provider of aerial fire retardant and suppression services to the U.S. Government since 1965. The Honorable Jay Inslee, Governor, state of Washington joined the Honorable Al French, Chairman, Spokane County Board of Commissioners and Chairman, Spokane Airport Board and the Honorable David Condon, Mayor, City of Spokane in expressing their appreciation to Aero Flite for their decision and investment in Spokane and welcoming them to the community.

AFI has recently upgraded its fleet to include 'Next Generation' jet aircraft and turbine powered water scooping aircraft. They operate multiple AVRO RJ85 Land Based Type I, Air Tankers and a single Bombardier CL415 amphibious airtanker all under contract to the United States Forest Service for the purpose of delivering fire retardant and suppressants in support of wild land fire suppression missions. In addition, AFI operates one Pilatus PC-12 Passenger and Cargo carrying aircraft which is used to move equipment and personnel to and from assigned work locations that will be similarly based in Spokane.

AFI's airtankers are on contract throughout the United States for virtually 12 months of the year. However, their in-service time typically starts in early spring and can extend

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until December. The aircraft and flight crew can be positioned anywhere during each year's contract term in the lower 48 states and/or Alaska that the Federal and State contracting agencies feel is strategically appropriate. The number of current AFI employees moving to Spokane has not as yet been finalized; however, it is estimated that 17 aircraft mechanics and support personnel and 5 senior managers will transfer from Arizona to Washington.

"Today's announcement further solidifies Spokane's role as one of the principal hubs in Washington's vibrant aerospace industry," said Governor Jay Inslee. "Thanks to this investment, dozens of people will be earning family wage jobs piloting and maintaining one of the largest firefighting fleets in the country. I am thrilled to welcome Aero-Flite to the Washington state family and look forward to watching its success."

Commissioner French, commented, "Aero-Flite has made a very strategic decision in siting its headquarters facility in the growing aerospace development area at Spokane International Airport and the West Plains. This is a great example of how our focused aerospace recruitment efforts are bringing new business and family wage sustaining jobs to Spokane County."

David Condon, Mayor, City of Spokane stated, ""We are extremely excited to welcome Aero-Flite to Spokane. We have made significant investments over the years in aerospace business development and this hangar in particular to make Spokane's already thriving aerospace industry stronger. Today's announcement delivers a return on that investment in the form of highly coveted jobs that this industry provides."

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