

Stockton, Aviation Research and Technology Park Sign Memorandum of Understanding

Allows Formal Talks on Park Becoming College Auxiliary Organization

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Galloway, NJ – The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey and the Aviation Research and Technology Park in Egg Harbor Township today signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) allowing them to hold formal discussions about the ARTP becoming an auxiliary organization of the college.

The ARTP is a non-profit charged with developing a facility on 58 acres owned by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The research park is expected to generate more than 2,000 high-paying jobs related to the FAA's Next Gen project of creating a satellite-based air-traffic control system that will transform aviation.

Stockton has supported the ARTP since its inception, with President Herman J. Saatkamp serving on its board, of which he is past president.

"Stockton and the Park have complementary goals," said President Saatkamp. "The college is interested in developing aviation-related academic programs, including research projects, courses and a degree program. Stockton is also committed to furthering economic development in southern New Jersey, by facilitating interaction between academic, commercial and government entities."

Dr. Edward H. Salmon, board president of the Aviation Research & Technology Park, Inc., said: "Development of the Park will bring year-round technological jobs to South Jersey. This memorandum of understanding is an important step in the process of cooperation and support between Stockton and the ARTP."

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The goal is for the ARTP to develop 400,000 square feet of office space and “to attract various commercial, governmental and academic organizations to pursue research and development regarding aviation issues,” the MOU states. Development at the site is subject to FAA approval.

The ARTP has received an initial grant from the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) for \$930,000 for operating expenses and a \$3 million commitment from CRDA for a loan/grant for construction of the federal laboratory in the first office building in the research park.

“I am very pleased with the signing of this memorandum of understanding,” said Ronald J. Esposito, executive director of the Aviation Research & Technology Park. “Stockton has been a strong supporter of the park from the very beginning and this MOU further demonstrates their belief in the park’s vision and their commitment to making the park a reality.”

Establishing a college auxiliary organization is authorized by the state law known as the Public College Auxiliary Organization Act. Ultimately, the auxiliary relationship would have to be approved by Stockton’s Board of Trustees.

After the FAA approves assigning the lease for the park’s site to ARTP, Stockton and the ARTP intend to enter into a more complete agreement, according to the MOU. That future agreement would include goals and responsibilities for both parties.

After negotiations, Stockton would agree to:

- Establish and lead a consortium of colleges and universities to interact with the FAA and the commercial, governmental and academic tenants in the Park.
- Create programs and courses related to engineering, aviations and avionics;
- In partnership with ARTP, create joint programs with the FAA that may include research and new technologies, aircraft safety and other areas in which the FAA may become involved based on government needs;
- Assist and advise ARTP in regard to negotiations with developers;
- Provide in-kind faculty and staff support to assist ARTP with administrative and management tasks;
- Support the environment for aviation research between private industry and academic institutions;
- Assist with identifying and preparing applications for funding;
- Provide financial assistance to ARTP at times, in amounts and ways to be negotiated;
- Ensure required ARTP board members are available to serve.

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After negotiations, the ARTP would agree to:

- Continue to negotiate and work with developers;
- Finalize an agreement with the project's former developer, South Jersey Economic Development District (SJEDD), and Environetics, the architect retained by SJEDD, to assign the architectural plans to ARTP no later than May 1;
- Finalize a lease agreement between itself and the SJEDD, which ARTP will present to the FAA for its consent no later than May 1;
- Continue to communicate and share information with FAA as necessary to insure its ongoing relationship with FAA;
- That upon the conclusion of the negotiation with the conditional developer and the execution of the master developer's agreement, ARTP will supervise, oversee and cooperate with the master developer to initiate and pursue to completion all aspects of the Park;
- Use its resources to engage potential tenants for the park in cooperation with the master developer;
- Pursue all tasks necessary to ensure success of the Park;
- Cooperate with the college in all matters and tasks associated and being part of the role of ARTP as an auxiliary organization to the college;
- Pursue amendments of its bylaws as required.

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