

CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA  
*Office of Economic Development*

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For Immediate Release

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~GSO Aviation to Relocate to Danville~

DANVILLE – U.S. Senator Mark Warner announced today the relocation of GSO Aviation, Inc. from Greensboro to Airside Industrial Park in Danville. GSO Aviation is a Federal Aviation Administration certified company specializing in the repair and servicing of hydraulic components used on aircraft. The company will occupy a new, custom built facility which will enable the business to expand its activities, and it will bring fifteen new jobs to Danville.

In making his announcement, Senator Warner emphasized the importance of businesses such as GSO Aviation that are the result of the unique spirit of American entrepreneurship. An entrepreneur himself, Senator Warner said that for our nation to recover from the current state

of economic malaise, we must nurture this kind of small business organization that will lead us back to prosperity and economic growth.

GSO Aviation was founded by Ray and Tere Rodriguez. Mr. Rodriguez came to the United States from Cuba as a three-year old toddler, was educated in the Miami area, became a naturalized citizen of the U.S. of A., and served his adopted country in the Marine Corps. He began his career as an entrepreneur in Miami in the aircraft repair business and later moved to North Carolina where he worked for an aircraft repair company prior to founding GSO Aviation, Inc. He and his wife, Tere, are the sole owners of the company, and they say that they are very excited about the move to Danville where they have found a receptive climate for their operation. A significant factor in their decision to relocate the business to Danville is the availability of specialized workforce training at the Regional Center for Advanced Technology and Training, an arm of Danville Community College.

“Virginia has established itself as a strong player in the aerospace industry,” said Governor McDonnell. “I am delighted that GSO Aviation will contribute to this niche from Danville, establishing a new operation in a custom facility that allows room for growth.” Ray Rodriguez said, “While much larger cities were considered, no other location matched Danville’s offerings in infrastructure and support.” Danville’s Mayor Sherman Saunders said, “These are the kinds of announcements that say loudly and proudly, Danville is committed to doing what it takes to attract new businesses and bring new job opportunities to our region.”

The City of Danville working with the Industrial Development Authority of Danville will construct a building in Airside Industrial Park to house GSO Aviation. This building will be occupied by GSO Aviation under a lease/purchase arrangement with the IDA. The company will employ 15 people within three years of beginning operations in Danville, and those operations are scheduled to begin the first of January, 2012.