



## Media Release

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

### **Mohawk College opens Centre for Aviation Technology** **Innovative training facility brings all Aviation programs into 75,000sf facility, with capacity to double student enrolment**

Hamilton, ON – Mohawk College students now have access to Canada’s newest aviation training facility, with the opening of the Mohawk College Centre for Aviation Technology.

The new 75,000-square-foot complex brings together all of the college’s Aviation programs into one purpose-built state-of-the-art facility in an airside hangar at John C. Munro Hamilton International Airport. The three-storey facility provides students with modern labs, shops, training aids, classrooms and access to nearly 20 aircraft, doubling the student enrolment capacity for the college’s Aviation programs.

“We are excited to have our students training in this impressive new facility. And we are grateful to all of the industry partners who have supported us in this huge project,” said **Ron McKerlie, President and CEO of Mohawk College**. “With this state-of-the-art training facility and the innovative training equipment we can now offer our students, we are confident Mohawk College will soon become one of the top Aviation training colleges in Canada. We look forward to supporting the local and national Aviation industry as companies reinforce their workforces on the road to economic recovery.”

The Centre for Aviation Technology was built in cooperation with KF Aerospace, which recently constructed an expansion of its aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul facility. The Mohawk and KF Aerospace buildings are connected by common areas, providing Mohawk students with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience, working side-by-side with certified tradespeople in placements and experiential learning opportunities in a hangar adjacent to their classes and labs.

Previously, Aviation students in the Aviation Technician – Maintenance, Aircraft Structure and Avionics Maintenance programs were trained at four different college locations, with a total limit of 175 student seats available. The Mohawk College Centre for Aviation Technology brings all those programs together in one location, at one of Canada’s most active and growing passenger and cargo airports. The additional space and resources allow Mohawk to double the number of students who can be trained.

“John C. Munro Hamilton International Airport is an international gateway for affordable passenger travel and the largest overnight express cargo airport in Canada. The Airport’s strategic location and uncongested 24/7 operations make it an attractive option for businesses looking to serve the Southern Ontario market,” said **Cathie Puckering, President and CEO of John C. Munro Hamilton**

**International Airport.** “As an economic engine, Hamilton International Airport continues to seek partnership opportunities to drive community benefits and promote access to local talent and services. With on-site access to a variety of Airport customers, KF Aerospace and Mohawk College’s Centre for Aviation Technology will further contribute to workforce development in our region by providing real-life, hands-on experiences and integrated skills training in a modern, state-of-the art facility helping supply well-rounded candidates for the growing aerospace sector.”

“I am very excited to partner with Mohawk College on Canada’s newest aviation center of excellence,” said **Barry Lapointe, Founder and CEO of KF Aerospace.** “I still remember my excitement and passion when I went to school to become an AME, and hope students take full advantage of this legacy facility. I know the pandemic has temporarily altered air travel, but both Mohawk students and KF are well-positioned for the coming rebound. I think timing will work out perfectly for the future graduates as we re-start our expansion plans.”

**Features of the new Centre for Aviation Technology include:**

- only Boeing 737 NG Virtual Maintenance Training system in a Canadian College
- Separate permanent turbine and piston engine labs
- Hangar space for 20 static aircraft (incl. an Orange Sikorski helicopter, Falcon corporate jet) and outside space for operational planes (incl. Boeing 727)
- Student enrolment capacity increased from 175 to 350

**About Mohawk College**

Mohawk College educates and serves more than 32,500 full-time, part-time, apprenticeship and international students at three main campuses in Hamilton, Ontario and learning hubs across Hamilton through City School by Mohawk, and at the Centre for Aviation Technology at Hamilton International Airport. Mohawk is among the top 10 colleges in Canada for applied research. It has been named one of Canada’s greenest employers seven years in a row, holds a GOLD STARS rating from AASHE for sustainability achievements and is home to the country’s largest and first institutional building to receive dual certification for Zero Carbon Building Framework design and performance for The Joyce Centre for Partnership & Innovation. More than 130,000 people have graduated from Mohawk since it was founded.

**About KF Aerospace**

We’re all about THE CRAFT.

KF Aerospace has provided innovative aircraft solutions for corporate, commercial and military customers worldwide for over 50 years. From our humble beginnings in the Okanagan Valley, KF has grown to specialize in aircraft maintenance and modifications, military aircrew training, air cargo operations and leasing—with the same commitment to quality and service established by our founder in 1970. With facilities across Canada, KF is home to over 900 highly skilled employees, including 450 aircraft maintenance engineers.

To learn more visit [www.kfaero.ca](http://www.kfaero.ca)

**Media Contact:** Bill Steinburg - 905-870-3097 [bill.steinburg@mohawkcollege.ca](mailto:bill.steinburg@mohawkcollege.ca)