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Port of Huntsville Honors Senator Richard Shelby During Air Cargo Facility Grand Opening

Newest facility touts 5,250-square-foot cold storage, 20'- by 70'-foot bay doors

HUNTSVILLE, Ala., April 30, 2009 – The Port of Huntsville today honored Senator Richard Shelby during a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate its newest air cargo facility. Having helped secure more than \$19.6 million in funding for capital improvements to the Intermodal Center since 2001 – including the new air cargo facility – Senator Shelby was honored with a special presentation during the event. According to Rick Tucker, Executive Director, Port of Huntsville, “Senator Shelby has been a tremendous advocate of the Port of Huntsville for many years and has worked tirelessly to help secure funding that has enabled our operations to continue to grow and work toward our mission of providing quality multi-modal transportation services to a diverse regional customer base and stimulating the economic growth and development of the Tennessee Valley region.”

Construction of the 92,493-square-foot facility began in May 2008 and totaled more than \$7 million. The facility, which was constructed by Decatur-based Fite Building Company, Inc., features a 5,250-square-foot cold storage area and 20-foot by 70-foot double bay doors. The new development will almost double in size the current 100,000-square-foot Air Cargo South facility where global Swiss freight forwarder, Panalpina, has resided since 1990. Another 100,000-square-foot air cargo building houses several carriers and freight forwarders, including UPS Supply Chain Solutions, UPS, Westwind Inc., BAX Global, and Fed Ex.

“The new facility will add significant office and warehouse space at the Intermodal Center, and the inclusion of cold storage adds a new element to our available services,” said Mitch Bradley, Director, International Intermodal Center. “Although the economy took a downturn shortly after construction began last year, we felt that it was important to put the infrastructure in place to meet the needs of future growth and expansion once the economy strengthens. We have full confidence that once the market turns around, there will be a surge in the air cargo industry, and we will be ready.”

Mark McDaniel, Chairman, Board of Directors, Port of Huntsville, credits the arrival of Panalpina in 1990 with opening a key international gateway to air freight and distribution between the United States, Europe and Mexico. “Huntsville’s inland port offers several advantages that position the new facility to attract additional carriers to the area,” said McDaniel. “Less congestion in the air space and on the surrounding roads along with

competitive real estate costs and landing fees are among the strong selling points.”
McDaniel, along with other executives at the Port of Huntsville, believes the newest facility will further its objective of expanding operations to include an Asian carrier and position the Port of Huntsville as the Asian gateway to the Southeast.

For additional information on the International Intermodal Center’s new air cargo facility, contact 256-772-7084.

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