



**For Immediate Release:
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**PIEDMONT AIRCRAFT COMPANY LAUNCHES WITH
VETERAN INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP**

**Landmark Aviation Aircraft Sales Unit Emerges as
Piedmont Aircraft Company Under New Ownership**

Winston-Salem, NC – February 2, 2009 – Piedmont Aircraft Company has launched as the industry's premiere firm representing previously owned Beechcraft and Hawker aircraft. Industry veteran Tom Mekis is leading the company as President and CEO.

Piedmont Aircraft Company has a long and distinguished history. Most recently it was part of Landmark Aviation, acquired when the Carlyle Group purchased and combined the assets of Piedmont-Hawthorne Aviation, Garrett Aviation Services and Associated Air Center under the Landmark umbrella in 2004. When Encore Aviation acquired the Landmark Aviation FBOs and previously owned aircraft business from Dubai Aerospace Enterprise in 2008, Encore opted to focus on the FBOs, which presented Tom Mekis—who had served as Vice President of Landmark's aircraft sales, charter, management and MRO divisions—with an opportunity.

"We have invested in a company that is really just a natural extension of a strong brand with a rich, deep, 65-year heritage," said Piedmont CEO Tom Mekis. "The firm name may be new but we will continue to serve our customers the way we always have—with integrity, dedication, honesty and of course specialized industry expertise."

Joining Mekis as Vice President of Aircraft Sales is another industry veteran, Jim Odenwaldt, as well as the entire team of aircraft sales professionals who have worked together with Mekis and Odenwaldt for many years.

Piedmont Aircraft has offices in Winston-Salem and Charlotte, North Carolina; and Leesburg, Virginia. Backed by a professional sales and marketing staff with nearly 300 years of combined aircraft sales, support and consulting experience, the company offers turnkey pre-owned aircraft acquisition, management, financing and sales consulting. Piedmont's core market is quality mid-size, turbine-powered Beech and Hawker aircraft.

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Backgrounder on Tom Mekis

Tom Mekis began his career at Beech Aircraft Company where he held various sales and marketing management positions during his nine years with the company. He then joined American Beechcraft as Sales Manager. American Beechcraft was ultimately merged into Piedmont Hawthorne in 1998, which merged with Garrett Aviation to form Landmark Aviation in late 2004. Mekis has held a variety of senior-level management positions, including General Manager of the Leesburg, Virginia facility, with oversight of its FBO, MRO, parts, and aircraft sales operations. He also served as Vice President with responsibility for the aircraft sales, charter, management and MRO divisions. Mekis holds a BS in Marketing from Oklahoma State University. He is an active instrument-rated pilot with over 4,500 hours.

For more information, contact Piedmont Aircraft at 800-259-1940 or access www.piedmontaircraft.com.

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Note to Editors:

A high-res picture of Tom Mekis is attached to this release.