

**For Immediate Release:
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PIEDMONT AIRCRAFT SHOWS STRONG GROWTH IN TOUGH MARKET

With 24 aircraft sold in the past six months, new company finds right mix of motivated sellers and buyers

Winston-Salem, NC – September 9, 2009 – Piedmont Aircraft Company has sold 24 aircraft since its official launch earlier this year. The aircraft include one Beechjet, one Premier, two Beech 1900s, eleven King Airs, two Barons and six Bonanzas. The firm was launched in February of this year as the industry's premiere firm representing previously owned Beechcraft and Hawker aircraft. The numbers include aircraft sold through July 31 of this year.

"Even in this market—which is one of the toughest markets we have seen in years—there are buyers out there," said Piedmont CEO and industry veteran Tom Mekis. "It's a question of matching the right buyer with the right seller—at the right price. Our sales statistics speak for themselves," Mekis added.

"It's about tactfully educating the seller as to what their airplanes are worth when we're in this down-cycle," continued Mekis. "Sellers have to adjust their expectations and once you get that expectation set correctly, there are buyers ready to capitalize on depressed values."

Piedmont focuses on a core market of quality mid-size, turbine-powered Beech and Hawker aircraft. The company offers turnkey pre-owned aircraft acquisition, management, financing and sales consulting. Piedmont's complete inventory of previously owned aircraft may be viewed at www.piedmontaircraft.com.

The 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. Piedmont was formed in February 2009 with offices in Winston-Salem and Charlotte, North Carolina; and Leesburg, Virginia. Under Tom Mekis' leadership, Piedmont is backed by a professional sales and marketing staff with nearly 300 years of combined aircraft sales, support and consulting experience.

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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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