



## *News Release*

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## For Immediate Release

### **University Airport to begin Noise Study**

COLUMBUS, OH (August 20, 2007) --The Ohio State University has received a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration to begin a Federal Aviation Regulations Part 150 Noise and Land Use Compatibility Study for the University Airport.

The Part 150 Noise Study will document noise levels from current aircraft operations and forecasted future operations. It will also develop recommendations for reducing potential aircraft noise exposure for surrounding communities.

The engineering firm of Reynolds, Smith & Hills, Inc. (RS&H) has been selected to oversee the project. RS&H, headquartered in Jacksonville, Florida, is one of the industry's leading facilities and infrastructure consulting firms. San Francisco-based ESA Airports, one of the top firms for conducting aircraft noise analyses and preparing environmental documentation, will conduct the noise analysis as a subcontractor to RS&H.

"We are pleased that the FAA is supporting our effort to understand the noise impact on our surrounding neighbors," said Doug Hammon, Airport Director. "We have assembled a strong team of industry experts to manage this project and make recommendations based on best practices throughout the country."

A Part 150 Committee representing neighboring municipalities, airport users and other stakeholders will provide feedback and comment throughout the study. That committee will meet several times to review analysis and offer suggestions about the recommendations being considered. In addition, three public open houses will be conducted to answer questions and collect comments from interested individuals. A public hearing will be held in conjunction with the final open house. The FAA will be involved in various stages of the process.

The study will be completed in two phases. The first phase, beginning in September, will identify the Noise Exposure Maps (NEMs). NEMs are the official noise contours for the airport and are prepared for the existing airport conditions as well as for projected conditions into the future. This phase of the study will cost \$533,673, and will be funded at 95% through an FAA Fiscal Year 2007 Airport Improvement Program grant. The remainder of the cost will be borne by the Airport.

The second phase of the study will develop a Noise Compatibility Program (NCP) for the Airport. The NCP will recommend steps that can be taken to mitigate the impacts of aircraft noise on noise sensitive land uses. This phase of the study is expected to be funded through a combination of an FAA Fiscal Year 2008 Airport Improvement Program grant and Airport funds. The study is expected to be completed in two years.

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