

New Falcon 7X Business Jet Prompts Dassault Expansion Plans

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Little Rock, AR - In a presentation today to the Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce, Dassault Falcon Jet discussed their new Falcon 7X and how it may quickly lead to a substantial expansion of their Little Rock Airport Completion & Service Center complex. Christian Sasso, General Manager of the Dassault facility, made the presentation.

"The new 5700 nm Falcon 7X made its first public appearance in Bordeaux, last month before a crowd of over 800 customers, officials and employees," said Sasso. "Now that the aircraft is just weeks away from entering the flight test program we are finalizing our plans for the completion of this new airplane. Final certification and first delivery of the Falcon 7X is expected the end of 2006." Virtually all new Falcons manufactured by Dassault are 'completed' with interior amenities and paint in Little Rock . Dassault made 53 deliveries from the Little Rock facility in 2004.

A new \$8.2 million state-of-the-art paint hangar capable of handling the Falcon 7X was added to the complex last year. The Falcon 7X is nearly 10 feet longer and has a wingspan almost 19 feet wider than the Falcon 900EX, Dassault's current top of the line business jet. Under consideration is an additional 44,000 square feet of manufacturing, warehouse and office space and 22,000 square feet of new hangar space dedicated to Falcon 7X completions. An additional 9,000 square feet of office space would be dedicated to new Service Center offices.

Additional expansion/renovation plans include cabinet shop expansion and a new ramp staging area. Ground breaking for the Service Center and warehouse could occur in the coming weeks. The 7X hangar expansion should break ground in July 2005 with the final phase of construction concluding in 2006. Dassault could invest over \$13 million in capital asset additions and improvements to the Little Rock facility in 2005.

Once complete, the physical footprint of the Little Rock facility will be over 600,000 square feet, which is nearly 10 times the size of the original facility that Dassault purchased from Little Rock Airmotive in 1975. Currently, there are 1,500 employees at the facility making Dassault the largest manufacturing employer in Little Rock . This expansion could add between 100 and 200 jobs over the next two years with hiring starting as early as the fourth quarter of 2005.

Dassault Falcon Jet is a wholly owned subsidiary of Dassault Aviation, and is responsible for selling and supporting Falcon business jets throughout North America, South America, and the Pacific Rim countries of Asia (including). It employs a workforce of more than 2400 professionals who service, support and meet the needs of Falcon operators in the Western Hemisphere . Since the rollout of the first Falcon 20 in 1963, over 1500 Falcon jets have been delivered to more than 65 countries worldwide. The family of Falcon jets includes four tri-jets—the Falcon 50EX, 900C, 900EX, and the new 7X—as well as the twin-engine Falcon 2000 and 2000EX.