



David Orazietti, M.P.P. Sault Ste. Marie

News Release

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ORAZIETTI ANNOUNCES \$1.8 MILLION FOR AIRPORT EXPANSION

Hangar Expansion Will Increase JD Aero's Maintenance, Repairs, and Operational Capacity

Sault Ste. Marie - The Ontario Government is investing \$1.8 million through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) to expand the hangar at the Sault Ste. Marie Airport, announced David Orazietti, MPP.

"Our government is committed to helping communities like ours attract business and investment, and today's announcement means JD Aero will have the necessary space and support to continue to create jobs and expand their operations here in the Sault," said Orazietti.

The Sault Ste. Marie Airport Development Corporation (SSMADC) is receiving \$1.8 million from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation to expand the hangar and commercial operators for aircraft maintenance, repairs, and overhaul. This investment will allow JD Aero to expand their existing hangar space by 10,000 square feet, and also includes engineering and planning space for the airlines, allowing them to meet the needs of their two newest clients, WestJet and Horizon. Additionally, as a result of this funding JD Aero will be able to further expand its capacity for attracting and servicing commercial operators for aircraft maintenance, repairs, and overhaul.

"JD Aero has quickly expanded at the Sault Airport to become a cornerstone tenant for the SSMADC growing from 3 employees to over a hundred employees in less than 10 years," said Terry Bos, President and CEO of the Sault Ste. Marie Airport Development Corporation (SSMADC). "This further expansion would not be possible without the assistance of the NOHFC in making the project affordable for the SSMADC and JD Aero, and will allow JD Aero to meet the needs of their ever expanding client list and attract more aircraft to Sault Ste. Marie for service work."

These expanded services will assist in attracting global airline companies, give greater efficiency for transportation by allowing aircraft to be serviced on-site in Sault Ste. Marie, and will allow JD Aero to expand their full-time, permanent workforce from 50 to 75 employees. This brings the total full-time and part-time employees to approximately 110 jobs.

Previous investments in the Sault Ste. Marie Airport include:

- \$1 million in 2015, for a terminal expansion, including increased passenger space and four new airline counters
- \$1 million in 2011 for a terminal expansion to accommodate more passengers and flights
- \$129,885 in 2010 for a new airline counter and increased screening services for Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA)
- \$437,750 in 2010 to update a vacant hanger and allow JD Aero to open and operate their business
- \$162,150 in 2009 to expand and reconstruct the CBSA offices, enhance security standards, and increase arrival and screening area capacity

Investing in infrastructure is part of the government's economic plan to build Ontario up and deliver on its number-one priority to grow the economy and create jobs. The four-part plan includes investing in talent and skills, including helping more people get and create the jobs of the future by expanding access to high-quality college and university education. The plan is making the largest investment in public infrastructure in Ontario's history and investing in a low-carbon economy driven by innovative, high-growth, export-oriented businesses. The plan is also helping working Ontarians achieve a more secure retirement.

QUICK FACTS

- Since 2003, the NOHFC has invested \$106 million into 874 projects in Sault Ste. Marie, creating or sustaining more than 3,237 jobs.

LEARN MORE

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