



MEDIA RELEASE

NEW AIRCRAFT PAINTING FACILITY IS LAUNCHED

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Townsville Airport is to be the location of Australia's premier aircraft painting facility.

The Queensland Minister for State Development, the Honourable John Mickel today launched the development of the Worland Aviation aircraft painting facility to be established in the Northern Australian Aerospace Centre of Excellence (NAACEX) precinct at Townsville Airport.

The Minister said Townsville has been identified by Worland Aviation as having the most suitable climate in Australia for stripping and painting of aircraft.

"This development is a welcome addition to Queensland's already impressive aerospace infrastructure," Minister Mickel said.

The Managing Director of Worland Aviation, Mr David Worland said they were limited in terms of space and weather conditions at their existing base in Albury on the New South Wales/Victorian border.

"After a nationwide search we came to the conclusion that Townsville was the ideal location to develop an expanded facility.

"The next milestone in our decision to relocate and expand was the tremendous assistance and support we received from Townsville Airport Pty Ltd (TAPL) and Townsville Enterprises Ltd," Mr Worland said.

The aircraft painting complex will involve the construction of two new hangars each capable of housing a B737/A320 sized aircraft.

The complex will also include an advanced environmentally sensitive painting process using a starch media system for preparation of aircraft components.

Managing Director of Townsville Airport Ltd, Dennis Chant said Townsville Airport Ltd is pleased that Worland Aviation has decided to become the launch customer for the NAACEX precinct.

"This complex will provide a fully integrated, secure aerospace industry enclave, well positioned to meet the needs of civil and military aviation customers," Mr Chant said.

Work on construction of the facilities has commenced and should be commissioned in July this year.

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