

Big money for aeronautical institute

Plattsburgh Aeronautical Institute gets grant for hangar

By JOE LoTEMPLIO Staff Writer

PLATTSBURGH -- The Plattsburgh Aeronautical Institute received a major infusion of state money this week. The project, which is being undertaken jointly by CV-TEC and Clinton Community College, will get \$200,000 in state funds.

The money will be used to purchase a hangar necessary to house instructional aircraft. It was arranged by Sen. Betty Little (R-Queensbury).

"The priority now is the aeronautical hangar," Little said.

"This state funding is startup money to purchase the hangar and keep this project moving forward."

The institute is scheduled to open in September 2007.

It will provide technically skilled job-training programs and professional-development opportunities for high-school students and adults.

It will be housed at the new Plattsburgh International Airport, which is under construction at the former Air Force Base flight line.

The institute will also support existing aeronautical firms and help attract new companies.

"The institute will ensure there is a nucleus of qualified airframe and powerplant technicians available to aircraft operators or maintenance facilities at the Plattsburgh International Airport," said Doug Fage, manager of flight operations for Pratt & Whitney, located on the flight line.

"The availability of these highly skilled individuals will be critical to their success."

The state funding should ensure the project opens on time.

"The \$200,000 pledged by Sen. Little will allow us to construct the instructional hangar and bring the PAI one step closer to our target of classes commencing in the fall of 2007," said Maurice B. Hickey, president of CCC.

"The senator's support is affirmation of her commitment to the North Country and the significance of the PAI to the economic development of the region."

CV-TEC Director Dr. Barry Mack said the project will produce workers that companies are looking for.

"The institute will help attract new employers to the region with the promise of a skilled workforce," Mack said.

"Our partnership with CCC, along with support from many area businesses and the Workforce Investment Board, is unprecedented."