

City Hall 405 Sixth Street P.O. Box 447 Sioux City, Iowa 51102

Marty Dougherty Economic Development Director 712-279-6345

For Immediate Release February 8, 2013

ACES Receives City Award for Growth

A "Growing Sioux City Award" was presented to Aviation Consultant Expert Solutions, LLC (ACES) today recognizing the company's significant growth and investment in Sioux City. The award, presented by Mayor Bob Scott, was accepted by ACES CEO, Jim Sponder and COO, Travis Stein. They were provided Sioux City windshirts and a certificate for a tree to be planted in their name this spring, signifying the company's commitment to growing in Sioux City.

"ACES is an excellent example of a small business start-up that is achieving success in Sioux City," said Mayor Bob Scott. "It is exciting to see a local company serving international customers."

Headquartered in Sioux City, ACES is an FAA certified Maintenance Repair Operation (MRO) engaged in supporting aircraft maintenance, flight operations, and safety management throughout the US, Caribbean, Mexico, and Africa for airline operators. The company has grown to employ 20 full time repair mechanics in the last year and anticipates further expansion in Sioux City.

"We are proud to be part of this community and pleased to see continued growth, not only for ACES but also in the aviation industry taking place right here in our hometown," said Jim Sponder.

ACES recently completed an overhaul and refurbishment of a SAAB 340B for Caribbean client, Seaborne Airlines. Released from the Sioux Gateway Airport this morning, the aircraft will join the Seaborne fleet operating 337 weekly departures to San Juan, St. Thomas, St. Croix, Tortola, and Virgin Gorda. "The ACES team has done a superb job supporting Seaborne Airlines in all aspects of adding the Saab 340 to the Seaborne fleet," stated Dave Ziemer, COO of Seaborne Airlines.

As reported by Seaborne Airlines, on Monday, 8PM (EST) February 11, 2013 Seaborne will be will be accommodating the Bachelor and his ladies' arrival to St. Croix, USVI on an upcoming episode of ABC's *The Bachelor*. The episode will feature a special seaplane tour and arrival with the newest Bachelor, Sean Lowe.

ACES worked closely with the City, the Airport Board, and Jetsun Aviation in 2011 to secure hangar space at the Sioux Gateway Airport and to receive financial assistance from the city and state through Targeted Jobs Withholding Tax Credits Program. The company has a 20-year lease for hangar 802 (the former Northwest Air Link hangar) under an agreement with the Sioux Gateway Airport Board and City of Sioux City that includes 24,000 sq. ft. of hangar floor and an additional 12,000 sq. ft. of shop and office space.