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Groundbreaking for Able Engineering's aircraft facility in Mesa

It will be the largest facility at the airport and largest private employer in the Gateway area. A groundbreaking ceremony was held today for an aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility at Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport that will be leased to Able Engineering. The City of Mesa and Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport Authority recently reached agreement with Able Engineering to operate the facility.

"Able Engineering is a perfect fit for the Gateway area and represents the aerospace pillar in Mesa's HEAT (healthcare, education, aerospace, tourism/technology) Initiative for economic development," Mayor Scott Smith said. "They will bring hundreds of high-tech jobs into an area that is becoming well known for aerospace research, design and defense."

The MRO will have approximately 191,000 square feet and will be the largest facility at Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport. Both the City and the Airport Authority agree that an FAA certified MRO facility will enable the airport to attract additional commercial, cargo, general and business aviation companies as well as military defense contractors.

"The construction of this facility will help grow Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport and increase its prestige on a national level by partnering with a company that has the kind of reputation that Able has earned," Mesa Vice Mayor and District 6 Councilmember Scott Somers said.

The MRO is scheduled to open in early 2013. Able Engineering has agreed to locate more than 320 jobs there within 12 months of occupancy. The goal is to double the size of the workforce by 2015, making it the biggest private employer in the Gateway area. The current average salary of an Able Engineering employee is \$100,000.

"This is the beginning of an exciting new chapter in our company's growth," Able Engineering Chief Executive Officer Lee Benson said. "We're already the most cost-effective MRO and parts provider for our customers; this new fly-in facility positions us as the most convenient, too."

Able Engineering, founded in 1982, is an international business and \$40 million aerospace enterprise that is currently performing more than 8,000 proprietary FAA approved repairs on aircraft.