



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

**Tony Roswarski**, Mayor of Lafayette:  
765/807-1002

**Tom Murtaugh**, Tippecanoe County Commissioner:  
765/423-9215

**Scott Walker**, President and Chief Executive Officer,  
Greater Lafayette Commerce: 765-742-4044

**Jody Hamilton**, Director of Economic Development  
Greater Lafayette Commerce: 765-807-5927

**Lafayette leaders welcome GE Aviation's expansion announcement**  
*Adding engine maintenance services to bring 30 more jobs, \$15 million investment*

Lafayette, Ind. – January 29, 2015 – Thursday's announcement that GE Aviation is adding engine maintenance services to its soon-to-open engine aircraft assembly plant—making an additional \$15 million investment and increasing jobs from 200 to 230 by 2020—drew high enthusiasm from Lafayette leaders.

“In a word: ‘Jobs,’” said Lafayette mayor Tony Roswarski. “And as huge and great as it is to see more jobs, well-paying jobs, career jobs coming here, there’s much more, too. This is a major global company, making a significant additional investment, producing a high-tech product that will now offer maintenance from this site, too. All of these factors and GE Aviation’s commitment to being a corporate partner in our city make for new opportunities for the entire community.”

Tippecanoe County Commissioner Tom Murtaugh echoed that enthusiasm. “Here’s what says it all about this announcement: Even before completing its facility and launching its first production here in Tippecanoe County, GE Aviation is announcing an expansion,” Murtaugh said. “Tippecanoe County has a great track record for attracting new industries and for growing existing industries. Now, with GE Aviation, we're doing both at once. I believe it’s because we have shown we can deliver a skilled workforce, plentiful business resources and cooperative community leadership.”

Jody Hamilton, Greater Lafayette Commerce economic director, worked closely with the company. “Decisions like this don't just happen,” she said. “Our community has been doing its homework for years—preparing our workforce, readying industrial sites, investing in infrastructure and planning for smart growth. Now, we are seeing that strategy and our work pay off. GE Aviation is acknowledging that we have what it takes, and we're delivering.”

“Fantastic” was the thumbs up assessment of Scott Walker, Greater Lafayette Commerce president and chief executive officer. “This is fantastic news. Most communities dream of an announcement such as GE Aviation’s. This speaks to our region’s competitive advantage in high-tech manufacturing and our quality of life. We’re eagerly working alongside the city, Ivy Tech Community College and Purdue University to welcome GE Aviation and help it succeed.”

“GE Aviation’s announcement is an acknowledgement that this major player likes what it has found here,” said Purdue University president Mitch Daniels. “A key part of that is the resources, particularly education and access to technology training. Purdue University proudly welcomes the opportunity to help supply education’s critical component.”

Ivy Tech Community College – Lafayette is also an education resource. “We are excited and pleased that GE Aviation has decided to locate its maintenance, repair and overhaul facility in Lafayette,” said chancellor David Bathe. “It is evidence of how the many economic development partners in Greater Lafayette have worked together to bring expansion to the region and to serve our residents. Ivy Tech is proud to continue preparing the workforce in our region to serve GE Aviation and its needs for the future.”

When GE Aviation opens in early 2016, it will assemble the aviation propulsion (LEAP) engine, developed by CFM International, a joint company of General Electric and Snecma (SAFRAN) of France, to power narrow-body, single-aisle aircraft, including the Airbus A320 neo, Boeing 737 MAX and China’s COMAC C919 aircraft. The first deliveries to the market, which represents about 70 percent of new aircraft sales expected in the next 20 years, are slated for 2016.

GE Aviation’s 300,000-square-foot Lafayette plant is under construction on 60 acres in Park 350, south of the Nanshan America Advanced Aluminum Technologies facility on Lafayette’s south side. Other park occupants are Heartland Automotive, Warehouse of Lafayette and Fed Ex Ground Transportation.

**About Greater Lafayette Commerce.** Headquartered at 337 Columbia St. in Lafayette, Greater Lafayette Commerce ([www.greaterlafayettecommerce.com](http://www.greaterlafayettecommerce.com)), whose roots go back more than 85 years, is a nonprofit membership organization supported by local businesses, industries and governments. Its mission is to advance economic and community prosperity for a superior quality of life.

###