Ames Tribune

Ames ready to celebrate new airport hangar

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The Ames Municipal Airport will hold a public ribbon-cutting celebration Saturday for the new Ames Municipal Airport Hangar, and to welcome the new fixed base operator, Central Iowa Air Service, to the community.

The ceremony will be held from 8:30-9:30 a.m. at the Ames Municipal Airport. A brief program will be held at 9 a.m.

The construction of the new hangar is part of a multi-phased modernization project that also includes a construction of a new terminal. The project is a private-public partnership that includes investments by the city of Ames, Iowa State University, the Ames Economic Development Commission and the Ames business community.

Ames Chamber of Commerce president Dan Culhane said that new hangar will have a great impact on Ames visitors by allowing them to get their aircraft out of bad weather conditions, as well as being a good economic development tool for the area.

"The hangar is an asset that we can promote when speaking to businesses looking to locate here," Culhane said. "At the same time it is a great benefit to those companies that have operations here in Ames and Story County that have parent companies with corporate aircraft, of which there are several."

According to Culhane, Central Iowa Air Service will also be a welcomed addition to the community.

"The new FBO comes with high expectations as well as a high level of credibility," he said. "They have a long history of being exceptional operators in North Iowa and I believe they will provide top notch service here in Ames."

According to a press release, the new FBO began operating in Ames on April 1.

The new Ames Municipal Airport Hangar was privately funded through an effort spearheaded by the Ames Economic Development Corporation. The hangar, which is 11,400 square feet, provides protection for visiting aircraft during inclement weather as well as rental hangar space for private aircraft. The building has been turned over to the city of Ames as part of the modernization project.

"This is a great public improvement and I applaud the city of Ames and those that invested their private dollars in making the hangar and a number of the other improvements a reality by stepping up and recognizing the importance of an airport with modern amenities," Culhane said.