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By Alicia Tarancon, KCRG-TV9 | Posted: Wed 7:34 AM, Oct 03, 2018 | Updated: Wed 5:57 PM, Oct 03, 2018

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (KCRG) - The Eastern Iowa Airport has broken ground on their new project. CID received an \$8.8 million grant to relocate and expand its cargo operations to handle more of Iowa's cargo demands.



The Federal Aviation Administration discretionary grant is the largest grant the Eastern Iowa Airport has ever received in one year.

The project involves moving the airport's air cargo operations from the east apron to the west side of the airport's property, adjacent to the FedEx facility.

Currently, the airport serves CID, DHL, FedEx, and UPS, but the new apron will be open to existing and new potential cargo carriers.

Marty Lenss, the airport's director says the "year-to-date" air cargo volume at the Eastern Iowa Airport has gone up 22 percent and that they currently handle 45 percent of the state's cargo volume.

Lenss believes that percentage will go up to 48 percent by the end of the year.

The total cost for this project is \$10.3 million and in addition to expanding the west cargo apron area, the project will also include building a connecting taxiway.

Wednesday the Eastern Iowa Airport will host its groundbreaking for the expansion at 10 a.m.
