

# COMMANDER PREMIER AIRCRAFT CORPORATION

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## ***NEWS FROM COMMANDER PREMIER AIRCRAFT CORPORATION:***

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## **Commander Premier Aircraft Corporation Picks Cape Girardeau, Missouri**

### **Trucks “are loaded and rolling”**

**October 8, 2005, Farmington, CT.** Commander Premier Aircraft Corporation (CPAC) announced today that it will establish operations to produce Commander aircraft and support the existing Commander fleet in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Joel M. Hartstone, CPAC President and CEO, announced the Cape Girardeau Regional Airport selection to about 75 owners of Commander aircraft at the Commander Owners Group (COG) Annual Fly-In. [Cape Girardeau official] simultaneously announced the news in Cape Girardeau.

“Nearly 30 trailers are loaded and rolling and the drivers have been told to head for Cape Girardeau Regional Airport,” Hartstone said. Asked how many sites were considered, Hartstone told the group that “CPAC received proposals from over 150 airports across the Nation, but only about twenty could accommodate our immediate space requirements. After giving careful consideration to about a dozen locations that met the criteria we set, Cape Girardeau came out on top. It’s a wonderful location for our new company and we’re excited that we can make this announcement directly to so many Commander owners at the beginning of the COG Fly-In.”

CPAC, formed by 50 owners of Commander aircraft, mostly COG members, purchased the assets of defunct Commander Aircraft Company (CAC) at the end of June 2005 from CAC’s Chapter 7 bankruptcy trustee. While the purchase included the type certificate, all production assets, and all inventory, it did not include a lease to the facility CAC occupied at Wiley Post Airport in Oklahoma City. CPAC announced in mid-September that it could not find space at any airport in the Oklahoma City area and that it would be leaving Oklahoma at the end of the

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month. However, it did not disclose where it was heading until today. “We were only given until September 30<sup>th</sup> to vacate the old CAC facility and by 11:58 pm last Friday all the trailers were loaded,” said Claudia S. Horn, CFO and a Director of CPAC. “Because FEMA commandeered so many trucks to deal with the hurricane emergency, it took a week to get the first trucks to start hauling the trailers to Cape Girardeau, but they’ll be on the way there now,” she added.

“We’re delighted that we were able to attract Commander Premier Aircraft to Cape Girardeau,” said Mayor Jay Knudtson in announcing CPAC’s decision to local residents. “We’ve worked hard to bring an aircraft manufacturer to our airport and we’re especially pleased that the world’s finest single engine, four place aircraft will soon be made in Cape Girardeau. Our City is committed to expanding its aviation industry base and we hope that CPAC’s decision will influence other aviation businesses to locate here,” he added. While details were not disclosed, CPAC officials acknowledged that Cape Girardeau and the State of Missouri provided substantial economic incentives to CPAC in connection with its move there.

CPAC will lease a 52,000-foot hanger on the airport that was recently built especially to house the production of single engine, general aviation aircraft. In addition to assembly operations, the hanger will house a complete service center for Commander aircraft. There are plans to build an additional building as CPAC ramps up its operations. CPAC is leasing an additional 23,000 feet of space, a short drive from the airport, to house shipping and receiving, parts sales, and small part assembly operations until the new building is completed.

“We hope to be completely settled in by December,” said Hartstone. “Because it’s been nearly a year since CAC has provided the existing Commander fleet with parts and service, we’ll move first to establish our parts supply and service center operations. Our plan is to begin producing new aircraft early next year,” said Hartstone. “Now that we have a new home, we will start taking production reservations for new Commander aircraft very soon.”

Phil Boyer, President of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), also appeared to address COG members. The AOPA completely refurbished a Commander 112A and will give the AOPA Commander to a lucky AOPA member in its annual membership sweepstakes drawing early next year. The AOPA Commander, which is displayed at every major air show, will also appear at the COG event in Sedona, Arizona, parking along side about 70 Commanders, flown in by COG members from across the U.S. “We’ve invited COG to hold the 2006 COG Fly-In at the Cape Girardeau Regional Airport,” said Horn. “I’d expect the winner of the AOPA Commander to attend, but it should probably be excluded from the ramp judging,” she added.

Cape Girardeau is a regional market center located on the west bank of the Mississippi River, in southeastern Missouri. It is the largest city between St. Louis, 90 miles to the northwest, and Memphis, 130 miles to the southeast. It serves a population of over 300,000 within a 40-mile radius. Just five miles from the City, Cape Girardeau Regional Airport (KCGI) is commercially served by American Airlines commuter service, with round trip flights to St. Louis. There is also a Fixed Base Operator and a restaurant. The City owned airport has two runways, 6,500 and 4,000 feet long, and is home base to about 50 general aviation aircraft. The airport is an “all weather” airport with several instrument approaches, including an ILS approach, and a VOR-DME radio station on the field. “The airport is ideal for flight testing and flight training; Cape Girardeau is centrally located for most U.S. based Commander owners and customers, the work ethic there is great, the airport facility was built to support what we intend to do, and the City leaders have clearly demonstrated their commitment to nurturing Cape Girardeau’s aviation industry,” said Hartstone. “It’s a natural choice.”

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