

Smith Reynolds seeks contractor for \$2 million in taxiway repairs

By **KATIE ARCIERI**

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WINSTON-SALEM — Smith Reynolds Airport will begin seeking a contractor in 2013 for a \$2 million project to renovate a taxiway that has needed repairs for years.

The project involves replacing pavement that leads to the airport's hangars as well as renovating half of an approximately 4,000-foot runway. That 2,000-foot section of the runway serves as a taxiway for large aircraft.

The airport has seen increased activity from tenant North State Aviation, an aviation maintenance business that is expanding with more than 300 new jobs during the next few years.

Tom McKim, chairman of the Airport Commission of Forsyth County, said activity on the taxiway has not returned to the levels that Smith Reynolds enjoyed when Pace Airlines was in operation, but that "we're seeing increased volumes of heavy jet traffic."

Mark Davidson, airport director, said construction could begin by spring 2013.

Davidson said 90 percent of the project's funding will come from a \$1.85 million award from the state Division of Aviation.

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The airport plans to obtain the remaining 10 percent, or about \$205,000, through various sources, including revenue from tenant leases, Davidson said.

The improvements will benefit Piedmont Propulsion Systems, which repairs high-end propeller blades for the regional, corporate and military aircraft market, said Aaron Hollander, CEO of Connecticut-based First Aviation Services Inc., the parent company of Piedmont Propulsion Systems.

The company expects to see more activity at the airport in terms of customer site visits and rush orders from the military market.

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