

For more information, contact Trisha Drape,
AEA director of communications, at
816-347-8400 or trishad@aea.net.
Cell phone: 816-591-7039

For Immediate Release

Aircraft Electronics Association Moves to New Headquarters in Missouri

World-Class Training Facility Now Open for Classes

LEE'S SUMMIT, Mo. — To meet the growing demands of a larger staff and the addition of more services and benefits to its members, the Aircraft Electronics Association (AEA) recently moved to new headquarters.

The AEA's new 12,000-square-foot headquarters and training facility were officially recognized during a ribbon-cutting ceremony, hosted by the Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce, and an Open House, presented by AEA staff, in August, at its new offices near the Lee's Summit Regional Airport in Lee's Summit, Mo., a suburb of Kansas City.

Dignitaries from the city of Lee's Summit, including the mayor, executive director of the Lee's Summit Economic Development Council, president of the Chamber of Commerce, manager of the Lee's Summit Municipal Airport and many others took part in the celebration.

While addressing the guests, Paula Derks, president of AEA, reminded these community leaders and business owners of the economic benefits and importance of local and regional general aviation

airports. "By selecting our headquarters site close to the Lee's Summit Regional Airport, the Association is letting the community know how much we value a general aviation airport," Derks said.

Last year, the AEA also opened a European satellite office in Cologne, Germany, to better serve the Association's growing international membership. This is in addition to its Washington, D.C., satellite office.

The new AEA headquarters features a state-of-the-art training classroom with a capacity of up to 100 people.

The Association is offering customized training classes for members; working with AEA academic members on training classes; and allowing AEA member companies to utilize the training classroom for their individual needs.

"AEA and its members are now in a class all their own with this new, state-of-the-art facility," said Mike Adamson, vice president of member programs and education for AEA. "We took advantage of a clean-sheet design, included all of the latest instruction technologies, and developed this classroom to be an extended campus for our members. This will play an important role in growing our instructor-led training offerings as well as our development of online training."



The new AEA Headquarters is close to the flight path of the Lee's Summit Regional Airport, near Kansas City, Mo. Download this high-resolution photo at www.aea.net/pressroom.



The AEA hosted a "Basic Wiring and Avionics Installation" seminar in August at the Association's new, world-class training facility at AEA headquarters in Lee's Summit, Mo. This was the first class offered in the new AEA's training facility. (Download this high-resolution photo at: www.aea.net/pressroom.)

AEA Staff Continues to Grow with Opening of New Headquarters

As the Aircraft Electronics Association and *Avionics News* magazine continue to grow, staff members recently were added and promoted at the AEA's new headquarters in Lee's Summit, Mo.

Trisha Drape, formerly managing editor of the magazine, was named editor of *Avionics News* magazine. She also will continue in her role as director of communications for the AEA.

Drape joined the AEA in January 2006. She previously was the executive editor of the *Lee's Summit Journal* newspaper, and was an editor and reporter for *The Kansas City Star* newspaper prior to that promotion.



Trisha Drape

During Drape's tenure at the *Journal*, the newspaper received the coveted Gold Cup award, naming it the best community newspaper in the state of Missouri. An integral part of that award-winning staff was Jeff Kirchoff, photography editor and graphic designer.



Jeff Kirchoff

Kirchoff now is bringing his design and photojournalism talents to the AEA and *Avionics News* as the new creative director. During his 12 years in the publishing industry, Kirchoff has earned more than 100 national and state photography and design awards, primarily first-place honors as well as three "Best of Show" awards.

"We are excited to welcome Jeff to the AEA team," said Paula Derks, president of AEA and publisher of *Avionics News*. "As an award-winning photography and design editor, Jeff will use his talents to help us continue to produce the largest avionics publication in the general aviation industry."

Kirchoff and his wife, Monica, have two daughters, ages 12 and 6. They live in Pleasant Hill, Mo.

The AEA also added another new staff member last month, Lauren McFarland, as its administrative assistant.



Lauren McFarland

McFarland will handle calls into the AEA headquarters office and offer support services to various departments within the organization. She also is taking on the role of circulation manager for *Avionics News*.

A graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia, McFarland served the university as an administrative assistant. Prior to that position, she worked as a project assistant for a Kansas City-based architecture firm.

— 30 —

AEA'S New Contact Information

Aircraft Electronics Association
3570 NE Ralph Powell Road
Lee's Summit, MO 64064
Phone: 816-347-8400 • Fax: 816-347-8405
www.aea.net • info@aea.net

AEA Publishing Division

Avionics News • *Pilot's Guide to Avionics*
3570 NE Ralph Powell Road
Lee's Summit, MO 64064
Telephone: 816-347-8400 • Fax: 816-347-8405
www.aea.net • avionicsnews@aea.net

AEA Europe Contact Information

Aircraft Electronics Association
Richmodstasse 6
D-50667 Cologne, Germany
Telephone: +49 221 920 42 442
Fax number: +49 221 920 42 200

The Aircraft Electronics Association represents more than 1,300 repair stations from throughout the world specializing in maintenance, repair and installation of avionics and electronic systems in general aviation aircraft. AEA membership also includes manufacturers of avionics equipment, instrument repair facilities, instrument manufacturers, airframe manufacturers, test equipment manufacturers, major distributors, engineers and educational institutions.