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## **Springfield Hires Woolpert to Conduct Airport Master Plan**

The firm will perform a comprehensive evaluation of the airport and its facilities, while supporting and furthering its Airpark Ohio and UAS work.

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio (Oct. 14, 2016) — The city of Springfield has contracted with Woolpert to provide a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Master Plan and an Airport Layout Plan for the Springfield-Beckley Municipal Airport. The plan will outline and detail the existing configuration of the airport as well as how it will evolve over the next 15-20 years.

The project is primarily funded by the FAA, with additional funding support from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the City of Springfield.

Woolpert will evaluate existing and future airport infrastructure needs, including roadways, runways, taxiways, navigational aids and buildings. It also will look at the airport's administrative functions, finances, economic development opportunities, environment and wildlife management, modernization and sustainability, facility alternatives and implementation, and public outreach.

Chris Snyder, Woolpert's project manager, said airports today face many challenges. In addition to identifying and developing growth opportunities, Snyder said airports must always consider the continued cost and manpower to maintain existing infrastructure with limited financial budgets.

As an industry-leading airport planning, engineering and geospatial consulting firm, Woolpert has worked with more than 1,500 airports and military air bases around the world, and is actively engaged with the FAA and its processes. The firm also is known for its work providing unmanned aerial system (UAS) or drone capabilities to private companies as well as local, state and federal government clients.

The 178<sup>th</sup> Wing, a unit of the Ohio Air National Guard (ANG), stationed at the airport, transformed from a Fighter Wing to an Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing. It supports the Predator Unmanned Aerial Systems Combat sorties abroad and is home to a NASIC unit connected to Wright Patterson AFB.

Airport Manager, Don Smith said the airport is ramping up its support of unmanned aerial flight activity especially with the Air Force Research Lab and various educational/research partners, and is trying to attract more UAS activity to the airport.

Sinclair Community College is a teaming partner with Woolpert on the Master Plan project lending its expertise to the UAS planning aspects. Smith said. "We're intent to stay on the leading edge of this technology." Snyder agreed, adding that he's looking forward to working with the city to maximize the vast potential of the airport. "It will be exciting to lay out the future of the airport and help grow and maintain this vibrant facility," he said.

The project will get underway this month and is expected to be complete by mid 2018.

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