

Russian Delegation To Visit U.S. For Aid On Wayport Project

A Russian delegation will visit the U.S. next month seeking aid on developing a cargo-type wayport in an oil- and mineral-rich section of Western Siberia and to seek out a suitable U.S. partner airport. The visit, including a two-day conference in Washington, will be handled by 2MS, Fort Collins, Colo., in association with the Ralph M. Parsons Co., which will be doing the feasibility study for the project. Tim McCune, a principal in 2MS whose father Harrison is president of the company, said the agenda calls for the Soviet delegation to visit airports in several other states (DAILY, April 7).

The site for the wayport will be an agricultural area near the previously closed city of Omsk where the former Soviet Union based highly secret space and weapons projects including production of the Mig 29. The area also is a major oil and gas producer and is on the Trans Siberian Railroad. McCune said the Russian delegation will be interested in identifying U.S. industries and specific projects for developing oil, gas, plastics, electronics, military conversion and other industrial projects in connection with an airport feasibility study headed by 2MS.

He said U.S. speakers at Governor's House Holiday Inn in Washington will include James Burnley, former DOT secretary and now a Washington attorney; Joan Bauerlein, director of the office of international aviation for FAA, and Tom Mansbach, executive director, Overseas Private Investment Corp. Jacque DeGrote, executive director, International Monetary Fund/World Bank, also has been invited.

The Russian delegation will include Sergey Kruglov, commander of the Omsk State Aviation Enterprise; Leonid Polezaev, head of the Omsk Regional Administration; Juri Shoyhet, head of the Omsk City Administration; Valeri Stepanov, chairman of the Omsk joint-stock commercial bank Omsk Promstroy Bank; Sergey Palizyn, deputy general director of the private industrial firm BMH; Ivan Lizcevich, general director of the oil processing company Omsk Neffe Orgsyutez; Juri Kozjevnikov, general director of the joint stock trade house SibWest; Oleg Chertov, general director of the consulting company Polycon; Michael Moiseev, deputy dean of Omsk Technological Institute, and Alexander Larin, director of State Department of Air Transport.

The "focus of the conference will be to identify to U.S. industry the opportunities for getting involved in the airport and industrial park projects" in Omsk, McCune said. He said the delegation is considering invitations and opportunities to visit Alliance Airport, Texas; the new Kentucky international cargo airport, and is talking with officials from Mississippi, and Colorado. Talks also have been held with Robin Rockwell, head of Aeroplex International in Florida, and Robert Glade, chairman of the Kankakee River Valley Airport Authority in Illinois/Indiana. It has had expressions of interest from the Clinton Sherman Industrial Air Park in Oklahoma, McCune said.

"The Omsk people are interested in a gateway airport with the U.S. No matter where the U.S. airport is, it will be a direct polar flight without having to go through Moscow," McCune said. "Omsk also is about half-way between Japan and Europe." While the actual size of the Russian airport is to be determined, the talk now is of parallel, 3,000-meter runways initially, he said. "It is a huge agricultural area; the site is completely accessible," said McCune, who along with his father just returned from Omsk. He said the Washington conference will be limited in attendance so companies will have a chance to talk with the Russian delegation. A second conference is being scheduled for June 21-27 in Omsk for those who find the first one beneficial. Registration fee is \$750 for the Washington conference. For more information, call Tim McCune at 303-490-2161.

New Supplemental Carrier Close To Beginning Operations

Airline of the Americas, Nashville, has received its DOT economics certificate and expects to get its FAA Part 121 operating certificate by the end of the month, says John MacDonald, chief operating officer. Soon thereafter, the carrier wants to begin operating as a supplemental passenger carrier with 727-200s, he said. "We have held back from the solicitations business during the certification process," said MacDonald, a veteran of Modern Air Transport, Saturn Airways, Transamerica and Air Berlin. "We think there is a niche in the marketplace for us to serve tour operators," primarily to the Caribbean, Mexico and Florida. The carrier expects to have four 727s in operation within the next three months or so.

Lucas Aerospace has been awarded a contract from GE Aircraft Engines to modify a GE-owned 747 into a flying test bed for the new GE90 engine.

U.S. Firm Aiding In Plans To Build Wayport In Western Siberia

Representatives of Omsk State Aviation Enterprise are scheduled to visit the U.S. in early June to set up a joint venture to build an international wayport in an industrial and oil-rich region of Western Siberia. Harrison McCune, president of 2MS, a construction management and civil engineering design firm based in Fort Collins, Colo., said a feasibility study will begin in July. The Omsk State Aviation Enterprise is a consortium interested in developing a "cargo-type wayport." The consortium includes Omsk Oil Processing Corp., regional and city officials, the regional commercial and industrial building bank and Sib West, an agri-industrial trading company.

McCune's firm has joined with Omsk interests and formed a joint venture called Polycon, which is to provide the legal and technical information needed to secure U.S. participation. Twelve officials are to visit the U.S. to meet "interested counterparts" in the U.S., he said. The aid of U.S. firms is needed to help with topography, airport layout and economics. "They are becoming very environment-conscious," McCune said. An industrial park will be designed based on the type of manufacturing brought to the airport, he said. "They are heavy into just-in-time." The airport ramp area will be developed "with the industrial park in mind." There are also plans to operate from a "gateway" airport in the U.S., such as Front Range or the new Denver airport, McCune said. "The only question there is logistics, being so far inland." McCune wants to stay out of the heavy-traffic Northeast Corridor. "We think this will be a pilot program, easy in, easy out. In Russia, we will go after manufacturing at the site. It will be part of the facility." Projected cost is \$500 million. "With the oil company and banks part of the consortium, that makes it real." McCune said the area's resources include oil, timber, gold and gas. He is leaving for Russia April 20 to make final plans to set up the June meetings, including one in Washington, D.C., and perhaps another at a promising facility in Mississippi, West Virginia or Colorado. He said those interested in the project may call him at 303-490-2161.