

Lease deal clears way for airport development

by **Carrie Watters** - Jun. 27, 2008 12:07 PM
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Developers with Rightpath Limited Development Group plan to build an office building and two executive hangars on three open acres at Glendale Municipal Airport, which could bring as many as 250 jobs.

The City Council this week signed off on a long-term lease with RLDG Glendale Hangars, which is a part of the Rightpath group.

The Executive Aircraft Maintenance company will rent space in a portion of the new development, which should start going up within six months

The maintenance firm, which services planes from single-engine aircraft up to jets, opened in a temporary airport location in March.

EAM's chief financial officer, Susan Croye, said she expects the company to employ about 30 people in Glendale.

Rick Burton with Rightpath said he is negotiating with two other corporate-jet firms as well.

Rightpath has a hefty stake in the airport and the nearby Loop 101 corridor. It is also approved to build the Main Street mixed-use development near the city's spring-training ballpark.

The company also owns Luxair, the fixed-base operator at the Glendale airport.

Along with running fixed-base services,

such as refueling planes and providing rental cars, Luxair intends to build hangars east of the runway on 20 acres it owns and 134 acres it controls in an 84-year lease with the city.

The latest acreage leased to Rightpath's RLDG Glendale Hangars is in a 35-year lease with two 15-year options.

Once buildings are constructed at the development company's expense, the company will pay the city an annual lease rate of 23 cents per square foot. That amounts to \$2,663 per month.

Mayor Elaine Scruggs, who was the lone vote against the lease, questioned whether the lease price is too low.

City staffers said the lease is at fair-market value and that the city would benefit from the buildings constructed and potential jobs.

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