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BUSINESS COURIER

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GE Aviation to open R&D center near Dayton

Business Courier of Cincinnati

GE Aviation announced Wednesday that it will create a \$51 million “center of excellence” near Dayton for research on electric power generation for the transportation industry.

The move is expected to create 10 to 15 jobs in its first year. That could grow to a total of 200 new jobs depending on future contracts, according to a company spokeswoman. GE Aviation already employs about 1,000 at facilities in the Dayton area.

The Electrical Power Integrated Systems Research & Development Center (EPISCENTER) would be the first of its kind for GE Aviation and will focus on markets that include hybrid and electric vehicles, electric aircraft and marine applications, according to a news release. GE Aviation also will work with **University of Dayton Research Institute** personnel on computer modeling and simulations.

The center, expected to open in 2012, will receive a capital grant of up to \$7.5 million from the Ohio Third Frontier Commission, according to the release.

“GE’s EPISCENTER will focus on advanced energy management involving electric power systems research and development, including electric power generation, control, distribution and management, conversion and energy storage equipment,” said Vic Bonneau, president of electric power for GE Aviation, in the release.

The company said it will announce the center’s location by the end of the year. It said it wants to be in the Dayton area because of the proximity to **Wright-Patterson Air Force Base** and its Air Force Research Labs (AFRL).

“The center will allow GE and the University of Dayton Research Institute to provide significant new support to AFRL,” Bonneau said.

Evendale-based GE Aviation designs and manufactures jet engines for commercial and military use. It is a unit of **General Electric** Co. (NYSE: GE), headquartered in Fairfield, Conn.

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