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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***Sumter County Airport Welcomes SC Avionics Services***

*Representative Murrell Smith Scheduled to Speak at Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony on Aug. 18*

**Sumter, SC** – Sumter County Airport celebrates S.C. Aviation Week and welcomes South Carolina Avionics Services (SCAS) to the airport facility on Wednesday, Aug. 18, with an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony at 2945 Airport Road at 9 a.m. Rep. Murrell Smith, state officials and county officials are set to address those in attendance.

“The Sumter County Airport is an important part of the Sumter County economic development toolkit,” said Airport Liaison Johnathan Bryan. “Having a strong airport helps to bring people and businesses into the county. Business travelers can travel to Sumter County, conduct their business and return home all in the same day.”

Airport Manager Jeff Knauer agrees. As owner of the airport’s fixed base operator On Eagles Wings, which offers ground services for private and corporate aircraft owners, he has seen clients save time and money through airport use. “General aviation allows business owners to create time, which helps them grow their businesses strategically,” Knauer said.

In addition to attracting corporate and leisure travelers to the county, the airport is now a destination itself with South Carolina Avionics Services. Pilots can bring their planes directly to Sumter County Airport for upgrades and repairs to avionics—the electrical systems and equipment designed for use in aviation.

Coupled with recent improvements such as upgraded LED lighting across the airfield, the growth at Sumter County Airport is making it the place to go in the Midlands to begin a career in aviation.

“Aviation is a passion-based career. I want to see kids get involved with and have the same experience that I have had,” said Knauer. “I love flying!” he added.

S.C. Aviation Week is a statewide celebration of the economic and educational impact of airports and the aviation industry. Occurring August 15 – 21, 2021, and centered around National Aviation Day and Wilbur Wright’s birthday on August 19, Aviation Week is planned in partnership by South Carolina Aviation Association (SCAA) and South Carolina Aeronautics Commission.

SCAA actively promotes and encourages aviation and airport development to meet air transportation needs and assist the state in achieving economic development goals. Its membership is comprised of airports, aviation industry partners and aviators across South Carolina. For more information, please visit [scaaonline.com](http://scaaonline.com).

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