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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Honda Aero Breaks Ground for Headquarters and Jet Engine Plant  
in North Carolina**

BURLINGTON, N.C., Nov. 28, 2007 – Honda Aero, Inc. (<http://world.honda.com/HondaAero/>), officially broke ground today on its new corporate headquarters and state-of-the-art jet engine plant in Burlington, North Carolina, on property located adjacent to the Burlington-Alamance County regional airport.

Honda Aero also announced that it has successfully run a proof-of-concept version of the advanced and efficient GE Honda HF120 turbofan engine, and that the engine has exceeded the company's internal development targets for both thrust performance and specific fuel consumption (SFP) on its first test run. The company is moving toward its goals of engine certification in 2009 followed by the start of mass production<sup>1</sup> in late 2010.

"Today, we break new ground for Honda and our effort to enter the business of aviation," said Satoshi Toshida, senior managing director of Honda Motor Co., Ltd. "The GE Honda Aero engines built here in North Carolina will power a new class of advanced light jets."

The all new, 102,400-square foot Honda Aero facility will consist of 36,000 square feet of office space, a 58,400-square foot production plant, and an 8,000-square foot engine test cell. Honda Aero will employ approximately 70 associates when the plant reaches its initial annual capacity of 200 GE Honda engines within about one year of production startup. The company is investing approximately \$27 million for construction of the headquarters and manufacturing facility, including equipment.

By achieving a higher thrust-to-weight ratio and lower fuel consumption, while minimizing emissions and achieving lower noise than other engines in its thrust class,

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<sup>1</sup> Honda products are produced using domestic and globally-sourced parts

the GE Honda HF120 has been chosen to power two of the newest and most advanced products in the “very light jet” market – Spectrum Aeronautical's Freedom, and HondaJet, which will be produced in neighboring Greensboro, North Carolina, by the Honda Aircraft Company, Inc., a separate Honda company.

The HF120 is a higher thrust successor to Honda's original HF118 prototype engine, which has accumulated more than 4,000 hours of testing on the ground and in-flight. Honda research on jet engine technology started in 1986, with development of the HF118 engine beginning in 1999. GE-Honda collaboration on the HF120 began in early 2005. The first core test of the GE Honda HF120 was conducted in early 2007, followed by full-engine testing later in the year.

GE Honda Aero Engines is a joint venture between GE Aviation and Honda Aero, established in 2004 for the development, certification and commercialization of jet engines in the 1,000 to 3,500 pounds thrust class.

### **About Honda**

Honda Aero, Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Honda Motor Co., Ltd., the world's preeminent engine maker, producing more than 26 million engines annually for a diverse range of products including automobiles, motorcycles and power equipment products. Founded in Japan in 1948, Honda began operations in the U.S. in 1959 with the establishment of American Honda Motor Co., Inc. ([www.honda.com](http://www.honda.com)), Honda's first overseas subsidiary. Honda began U.S. production of motorcycles in 1979 and automobiles in 1982. Honda began making power equipment products in Swepsonville, North Carolina in 1984, producing engines and lawnmowers. The company has invested more than \$9 billion in its North American operations, with employment of more than 35,000 associates, and annual purchases of more than \$17.6 billion in parts and materials from suppliers in North America.

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