



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **NxAERO ACQUIRES CHARTER OPERATIONS OF COLUMBIA AIR**

*Company to Expand Private Air Travel Services in Eastern North America  
Using TBM and Other Aircraft*

BEVERLY, MA, May 30, 2006 -- NxAERO, LLC, an aircraft management and private air travel services company, announced today it has acquired Columbia Air, LLC, a professional air taxi operator based in Groton, CT.

The acquisition by NxAERO (pronounced nex-AERO) of Columbia Air, culminates a close working relationship between the two companies to test a business model using EADS Socata TBM turboprop aircraft, the fastest single-engine production aircraft in the world. Columbia Air was a member of the Columbia group of aviation companies, which also includes Columbia Air Services, Inc. Columbia Air Services was founded in 1980 by Art Maurice and Harry Holt at the Groton-New London, Connecticut, Airport (GON). NxAERO will operate Columbia Air as a wholly owned subsidiary under license from Columbia Air Services, Inc., and will continue to market charter air travel services under the NxAERO name.

Customer demand for NxAERO service has been strong and growing since its inception in April 2005. Businesses and individuals choose the TBM because of its 340+ MPH (300+ knot) top speed, 1,500-nautical mile range and operating costs that are about half that of other commonly used charter aircraft. NxAERO is working with a network of other charter operators to fulfill a wide range of customer trip requests.

NxAERO ([www.nxaero.com](http://www.nxaero.com)) is based at the Beverly airport north of Boston and serves eastern North America. The company plans to expand its charter operations with additional turboprop and jet aircraft later this year.

“NxAERO is addressing a growing market of individuals and businesses that want the benefits of private air travel, but who were previously hesitant because available aircraft did not meet their travel or expense requirements,” said Steve Castle, president of NxAERO. “The TBM’s excellent performance and cost characteristics and its comfortable pressurized cabin have shown it to be a great airplane for serving our target market.”

“The Columbia/NxAERO program is a great example of the growing range of applications for TBM aircraft,” said Andrew Knott, vice president of marketing for Socata Aircraft, Inc. “They are such versatile aircraft capable of fulfilling a wide range of missions and a great platform for serving charter customers.”

“NxAERO has demonstrated an excellent ability to open up wider markets for air charter operations,” said Art Maurice. “Additionally, Columbia Air customers have found the charter support services provided by NxAERO to be truly superior.”

### **About NxAERO**

Based at Beverly Municipal Airport (KBVY), 15 miles north of Boston, NxAERO specializes in providing safe, cost effective, hassle-free regional transportation solutions. NxAERO has built relationships with trusted, reliable FAA certified air charter operators in the northeastern United States to provide customers with a selection of aircraft to best meet their needs.

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