

**BRIDGESTONE AIRCRAFT TIRE (USA), INC.**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **BRIDGESTONE AIRCRAFT TIRE ANNOUNCES MOVE**

*Tire company to relocate to North Carolina*

MIAMI (May 10, 2006) - Bridgestone Aircraft Tire (USA), Inc. (Bridgestone Aircraft) announced today that it will move operations to Mayodan, N.C., from its current location in Miami, Fla. The move will be completed by the middle of 2007.

“This move allows us to continue to prepare for a changing market, both in demand and in product mix,” said Joe Rayna, CEO and president, Bridgestone Aircraft Tire (USA), Inc. “New modern aircraft, such as the Boeing 787 Dreamliner and Airbus A380, arrive fitted with new Bridgestone technology aircraft tires, and this new facility will complement that technology.”

The new 160,000 square foot facility will create 95 jobs for the area by the end of 2007. While Bridgestone Aircraft will be hiring new employees in North Carolina, it will also be relocating a number of its teammates from the Miami area.

“This area of North Carolina fits well with our site search criteria, offering advantages in both a readily available workforce and proximity to major customers and transportation corridors,” Rayna said.

“North Carolina ranks among the top three in the nation for tire manufacturing jobs,” said North Carolina Gov. Mike Easley. “Bridgestone Aircraft Tire's decision to move its operation facility to North Carolina further enhances our reputation as a leader in this industry. We will continue to make the necessary investments in education, workforce development and infrastructure that make our state the best choice for companies that are relocating or expanding.”

There will be no interruption in service for its customers as Bridgestone Aircraft plans a smooth transition, continuing current operations in Miami until the move is complete.

For job inquiries at Bridgestone Aircraft Tire (USA), Inc., in North Carolina, please contact either the ESC/Job Link Center in Reidsville, N.C., or the Rockingham Joblink Center in Madison, N.C.

### ***About Bridgestone Aircraft Tire (USA), Inc.:***

*Bridgestone Aircraft serves the aviation industry with only the highest quality aircraft tires and retreading services, providing both its customers and ultimately their passengers with superior safety and reliability. With 70 years of expertise in aircraft tire manufacturing, the Bridgestone brand represents quality in the aviation industry. Bridgestone Aircraft Tire (USA), Inc., has sister Bridgestone aviation facilities in Tokyo, Belgium and Hong Kong. Bridgestone Aircraft's parent company, Bridgestone Corporation, is the world's largest tire and rubber company*

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