

Cape Town to get R250m Aviation Centre

The development of a R250m world-class aviation centre fronting onto Cape Town International Airport will position the city as one of the world's foremost private jet and helicopter destinations.

The ExecuJet Business Centre, currently under construction, is expected to support Cape Town's and the Western Cape's efforts to become a powerful international player in the business tourism market, said David Frandsen, acting executive manager of integrated marketing services for Cape Town Routes Unlimited.

The new fixed base operation (FBO) will provide a terminal and hangars for private jet travellers and an application is being made for customs and immigration services.

Nedbank Corporate Property Finance (Cape) is backing the project for local developers Dave Mostert and Johnny Cullum.

Frandsen said that business tourism generates a return on investment of 35:1 and thus is a fiercely contested sector internationally.

"Cape Town has so much to offer to this booming market, such as excellent conference and exhibition facilities and world-class infrastructures, coupled with the region's natural beauty. We are experiencing significant growth in this sector and if it continues it will sustain our destination's infrastructural expansion well beyond 2010."

With direct access to the N2 highway, runways and international airport infrastructure, this unique location also provides an ideal environment for executive jet aviation-related tenants. "The imminence of 2010 and the influx of high net-worth individuals it represents, makes the centre even more relevant," said Mostert.

The completed project will include a 10,000sq m four-level terminal building with split-level basement parking and ample office space for tenants likely to be in the jet-related field, although Mostert says he anticipates keen interest from a wide and varying tenant base.

ExecuJet Aviation Group and aviation companies Agusta and Sikorsky are confirmed tenants, with the remaining 20% available for interested parties.

The building's floors have a footprint of 1,700sq m and combinations of 200sq m, 500sq m, 1,000sq m and 1,700sq m can be accommodated.

Construction has started on site and the building is due for completion in February 2009.