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British Aerospace Testing Solutions Company Expands Offices to Suffolk

SUFFOLK, VA. December 13, 2005 - The City of Suffolk and the Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance announced today BCF Designs Limited, based in Cirencester, England, will open their first U.S. office in Suffolk. The U.S. company, BCF Designs Inc., is a wholly-owned subsidiary of BCF Designs Limited.

BCF Designs Limited specializes in the design and production of aviation test equipment, predominantly for military use. Products include Databus Network Testers, Fuel System Testers, Filter Test Sets, and Digital Avionics Protocol Testers. BCF'S Suffolk location will serve as a customer service center, business development and repair site.

Ian Townsend, Support Engineer, BCF Designs Limited, said the company recently signed a contract with the United States Navy which initiated the BCF search for a U.S. location.

According to Townsend, “We knew we wanted to locate on the East Coast, and we decided on the Hampton Roads region about a year ago. This area fits in with the way we want to develop our business, provides a strategic location, and gives us great positioning with the Navy. From here, we can also begin to pursue the U.S. Army and Air Force markets.”

Suffolk Mayor Bobby Ralph noted “BCF’s decision to locate in Suffolk is a true testament of how our City and region are becoming a national hub for high-tech, defense-related businesses. We appreciate the fact that BCF saw the opportunities our City has to offer, and we will work hard to support them as they grow.”

The Alliance, through its UK consultant, first discussed a Hampton Roads location during a marketing mission in the spring of 2004. According to HREDA President and CEO Jones Hooks, “Europe continues to be an important market for recruiting international business to Hampton Roads. BCF is another example of our successful international marketing strategies that will continue into 2006.”

Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance Chairman Franklin R. Bowers said the addition of BCF continues to market Hampton Roads as a worldwide player in the international business community. This move increases the number of international companies in Hampton Roads to 182, seven of them in Suffolk.

BCF Designs Inc. plans to occupy 1800 square-feet of office space in the Harbour Breeze Professional Center beginning February 1, 2006. They will hire six employees within the first twelve months of operations.

The Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance, Suffolk Department of Economic Development, and C.B. Richard Ellis Commercial Real Estate worked together in securing BCF’s Suffolk location.

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