

FAA News



Federal Aviation Administration, Washington, DC 20591

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Sept. 7, 2010

Contact: Kathleen Bergen, FAA, 404-305-5100

Kristi Bennett, Gulfport-Biloxi Intl. Airport, 228-863-5951 x 25

FAA TO "TOP OFF" NEW CONTROL TOWER AT GULFPORT-BILOXI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

WHAT: The Federal Aviation Administration will "top-off" the new airport traffic control tower at Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport in Mississippi. A crane will lift the steel structure for the tower cab to the top of the tower shaft. It weighs almost 100,000 pounds and is 60 feet tall. A photo op followed by interviews with the project managers will be held.

WHEN: 10 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2010. Raising the structure can be affected by weather, wind, and technical requirements, which may delay the lift.

WHERE: Media should assemble in front of the airport's air cargo facility at 4300 Air Cargo Road by 9:45 a.m. where they will be escorted to the ramp area for the photo op. After the tower cab structure is lifted, media will proceed to the construction site to interview the FAA and Flintco project managers.

WHY: The new 120-foot tower is being built south of the airport terminal to provide optimum visibility of the entire airfield for air traffic controllers. Current and future airport development has driven the need for a taller, larger tower to replace the existing 90-foot tower built in the early 1970s on the north side of the field.

The new state-of-the-art facility will include a 395-square-foot tower cab with enhanced space for air traffic control operations and training. It will withstand high-level hurricane force winds. The new 13,000 square-foot approach control base building will house administrative and training facilities and will offer improved security and air traffic training and simulation capabilities.

Flintco Constructive Solutions of Tulsa, OK is building the \$10.1 million airport traffic control tower. The FAA will commission the new tower in early 2012.

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