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## New Milestone for Aerospace Center

Ohio and the Central Ohio region just marked a milestone on a major project for the Port Authority and Licking County. Yesterday, on July 13, 2011 the Port Authority's newest Class A office and clean room building was dedicated. Goodrich Corporation cut the ribbon on its new office space the same day with Brian Gora, President of Goodrich's Sensors and Integrated Systems doing the honors.

This was the most recent of several milestones.

Milestone one was in the middle of the recession when few, if any, were thinking about building new buildings. The Port Authority felt it important to provide a spark to the economy and this new building was begun as a 100% speculative build project. In October 2009, with no lease in hand, the Port Authority authorized a contract for architectural and engineering work for the 45,000 s.f. combination office and clean room building. The building was seen as a next step in the redevelopment of the former Newark Air Force Base which the Port Authority was created to take ownership of over 16 years ago.

On April 29, 2010, while out for bids but before construction began, Goodrich agreed to lease the first floor as part of a strategy to retain and grow their engineering services operation on the Aerospace Center campus in Heath. Goodrich is a *Fortune 500* aerospace company with a 141-year history in Ohio.

More milestones came less than three weeks later. A May 18, 2010 groundbreaking ceremoniously kicked off the project while also marking the 15-year anniversary of the Port Authority, created to take ownership of the former Newark Air Force Base. It would be named for Wally Horton, the person who helped convince the Air Force to build in Licking County 50 years ago and who worked to bring privatization when the base showed up on the closure list. Horton took part in the dedication ceremony.

Construction got underway June 24, 2010 and would wrap-up one year later, June 24, 2011 when Goodrich would begin operations in their new, modern office space.

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