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Universal Celebrates 50th Anniversary at NBAA2009
50-Year Evolution from Corporate Aviation WX Company to Aviation Solutions Provider

Houston (Oct. 20, 2009) – A half-century into its existence, Universal Weather and Aviation, Inc. has evolved from the first company to provide weather briefs for corporate aviation into a comprehensive worldwide aviation solutions provider.

“Fifty years ago, when my father Tom Evans founded Universal[®], he provided a solution for frustrated corporate aviation operators who previously were in need of more tailored aviation-focused weather forecasts than the U.S. Weather Service provided,” said Universal Chairman Greg Evans. “We’ve grown tremendously since then, but all these years later we’ve continued to thrive because our business model continues to focus on anticipating the needs of our clients and providing solutions to those needs.”

Tom Evans, a former U.S. Air Force officer and meteorologist, started Universal in Dallas in 1959. A few years later, he moved the headquarters of the fledgling company to Houston, where it has remained ever since.

“We’ve experienced many highlights over the years. From developing computerized flight plans in the late 60s to pioneering the first contract fuel solution for corporate aviation in the 80s, to developing our premier worldwide ground support division, Universal Aviation,” said Greg Evans. “But all of that history doesn’t mean anything to a customer if the trip isn’t done right!”

Just as Universal evolved from its beginnings into a full service trip support services provider, the company has since evolved again to keep pace with the ever-changing needs of the corporate aviation industry.

“More of the world is open to corporate aviation than ever before,” said Universal President and CEO Ralph Vasami. “In today’s economic and regulatory environment, it’s essential that operators have somewhere to turn to answer their questions and to help them maximize the value of their aircraft. The knowledge we’ve gained in 50 years of service to business aviation makes us perfectly prepared to serve in that advisory role. Our clients trust us to answer their complex regulatory questions and to develop the solutions they need to ensure their trips are always a success. We’re proud to have reached the 50-year milestone, but we’re more proud knowing our clients rest easy knowing they can rely on Universal’s unmatched experience.”

For more information on Universal, NBAA attendees are encouraged to visit Universal exhibit #5717.

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As we celebrate our 50th anniversary, Universal Weather and Aviation, Inc. is proud to continue helping our clients achieve successful trips. With more than two million trip legs facilitated since our inception in 1959, Universal[®] has more trips, more knowledge, and more experience than any other provider. Named Best International Trip Planner by the readers of a leading industry publication, Universal's suite of products and services includes flight planning, weather, the UVair[®] Fueling Card, worldwide ground support from the award-winning Universal Aviationsm, online trip tools, air-to-ground communications, and more.