

Century Air acquires Hemmeter Aviation

Hemmeter Aviation Inc. and Hemmeter Aviation International Ltd. were sold at the end of June to Century Airline U.S.A. Inc., part of Japan-based Kyoto Tsushinki Groupe.

Sources familiar with the companies said the sale price was \$10 million, but Hemmeter Aviation executive vice president Tom Anusewicz declined to confirm the price.

He said the sale was a "good deal" for both developer Christopher B. Hemmeter, who set up the firm as his aviation division in 1985, and the Japan-based buyer.

"We will be able to expand much more than under Hemmeter. We are looking forward to our new operations," Anusewicz added that in Japan, Century Airline runs a helicopter service for the parent firm's hotel and golf complex in Fukuoka.

Masaya Uesugi, whose principal residence is in Japan, is sole shareholder of Century, which was formed earlier this year. His Hawaii address is 4585 Kahala Ave., also the corporate address for the firm.

Lu Lu Miyasato, a U.S. citizen, is president and treasurer of the firm, and Seiji Fukayama, who started Hawaiian Joy Ltd. in 1978, is vice president and secretary.

James H. Kamo, attorney for Century and reported to have brokered the deal, could not be reached for comment.

Hemmeter Corp. president Diane Plotts said "we're excited about the fact they'll be continuing with the crew we put together. They'll grow the company more than we would have. I think it was a good transaction for all concerned."

Hemmeter bought his first airplane in 1979 for his own business and leased property at the airport six years later because he wanted his own hanger.

Hemmeter Aviation was formed in 1985 to offer investors and visitors from the Mainland and Japan maintenance and provisioning services, primarily for corporate aircraft.

Its main facility on the south ramp of Honolulu International Airport is not like the traditional fixed-base operation where pilots get a snack while they gas up.

Hidden behind an automatic gate and a landscaped courtyard, Hemmeter Aviation offers business leaders the "reddest-carpet" facilities and services in Hawaii.

Hemmeter's guest book includes such names as Jimmy Carter, Ronald and Nancy Reagan, Robert Dole and John Waihee. The bulk of the signatures, however, are by executives of such companies as General Motors, Allegis, Honeywell, Eastman Kodak, 3M and Unocal.

Hemmeter Aviation also does turnaround refueling for Air France and British Airways Concorde SSTs.

Hemmeter Aviation International, formed at the end of 1988, operates a similar facility in Gander, Newfoundland, Canada, 6,000 miles east of Hawaii.

That firm provides aviation fuel for corporate jets crossing the Atlantic, much like Hemmeter Aviation does for aircraft