

# Press Release

For Immediate Release

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## Coastal Seaplanes and Newport News/Williamsburg Airport (PHF) Enter Strategic Partnership

Newport News, VA — March 23, 2026 — Coastal Seaplanes and Newport News/Williamsburg Airport (PHF) today announced a landmark operating agreement securing a dedicated hangar and long-term operational presence at the airport for Coastal Seaplanes. This partnership positions Coastal Seaplanes at the heart of PHF’s bold transformation into an AirCommerce Park, underscoring the company’s role as a vital asset in the region’s aviation future.

“This agreement represents more than just access to an airport,” said Sam Riggs, Founder & CEO of Coastal Seaplanes. “It represents an alignment between Coastal Seaplanes’ vision of accessible, efficient air travel by land and sea, and Newport News’ vision of becoming a hub for advanced aviation industry, innovation, and connectivity. Together, we’re laying the foundation for a new era of regional aviation.”

“The Peninsula Airport Commission is focused on positioning PHF for long-term economic impacts and operational relevance,” said Lindsey Carney Smith, the Chair of the Peninsula Airport Commission. “This partnership with Coastal Seaplanes reflects exactly the kind of innovative, aviation-driven business activity envisioned as part of our AirCommerce Park strategy and highlights the company’s role in the region’s evolving aviation ecosystem.”

With hangar facilities secured for its growing fleet, Coastal Seaplanes will expand passenger service, cargo capability, and aviation training opportunities. The partnership with PHF strengthens the company’s ability to serve business and leisure travelers across the Mid-Atlantic, linking coastal communities, waterways, and regional airports with unprecedented efficiency.

Coastal Seaplanes’ presence at the airport also reflects the synergy between advanced aviation infrastructure and forward-thinking regional development. Coastal Seaplanes is forming strategic partnerships with advanced air mobility (AAM) firms as part of its growth strategy to ensure strong, foresighted positioning in the evolution of commercial air service. The City of Newport News and PHF are also committed to advanced air mobility (AAM) integration as part of the AirCommerce Park initiative, in addition to aircraft manufacturing, aerospace R&D and air cargo logistics.

“Our community is witnessing an aviation revolution,” Riggs continued. “By building a home at Newport News, we’re not just supporting growth, we’re helping drive it.”

### About Coastal Seaplanes

Coastal Seaplanes, a division of Air & Opportunity Aviation, LLC, provides passenger service, charter flights, and unique travel experiences across Virginia, the Chesapeake Bay, and the Outer Banks. With a focus on safety, efficiency, and innovation, Coastal Seaplanes is redefining regional air mobility.