

Stepping Up to Grow the Aerospace Industry



Perhaps the most exciting aspect about Oklahoma's aerospace industry is the opportunity for expansion. Not since World War II when thousands of bombers were produced in Oklahoma City and Tulsa has the state's aerospace industry experienced such unparalleled growth.

Scores of new companies directly or indirectly involved with the aerospace industry have sprung up across Oklahoma's

landscape over the last two decades, helping solidify the state's reputation as an aerospace destination where innovation and hard work are at the core of its success. Much of that success can be attributed to a skilled workforce second to none, including engineers who keep the industry at the cutting edge and the

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thousands of airframe and power plant mechanics, sheet metal workers, machinists, electrical technicians and other workers who graduate every year from the state's world-renowned and highly respected higher education system and career technology centers.

The industry's success can also be attributed to state and elected officials who understand just how indispensable aerospace is to the state and its future prosperity.

Oklahoma is proud of its aviation history and the impact the industry has had on not only the state but also the nation. Ever since its humble begin-

Did you know...

- ➔ The aerospace industry is responsible for 144,000 direct, indirect and induced jobs in Oklahoma, which represents approximately one out of every 11 Oklahomans.
- ➔ The average salary of an Oklahoman working in the state's aerospace industry is nearly \$60,000, compared to the state average of more than \$37,000.
- ➔ Oklahoma is one of seven hubs or centers in the world for the maintenance, repair and overhaul of aircraft.
- ➔ Oklahoma's aerospace industry generates a \$12.5 billion economic output annually, which represents 10 percent of the state's total output.
- ➔ Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City is the largest military aircraft repair facility in the world and is also the state's largest single-site employer with approximately 28,000 jobs and an annual economic impact of more than \$3 billion.
- ➔ The American Airlines Maintenance and Engineering Center in Tulsa is the world's largest commercial aircraft repair facility, employing 7,000 people.
- ➔ The FAA's Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center in Oklahoma City serves as the central nerve center for the nation's air transportation system, employing more than 7,000 Oklahomans.



nings in the early 1900s when aviation pioneers such as Wiley Post and Clyde Cessna were first making their mark on the aviation world, Oklahoma and its people have been recognized world over for their entrepreneurial spirit and "can-do" attitude.

Without question, the aerospace industry is one of the four pillars of Oklahoma's economy, which also includes energy, agriculture and the bio-sciences. It yields a \$12.5 billion economic output (10 percent of the state's total output) and a payroll of \$5 billion annually.

The main aerospace clusters are located in Tulsa and Oklahoma City where a majority of the more than 800 aerospace-related companies operate, including major companies such as American Airlines, FlightSafety International, Lufthansa Technik, L-3 Communications, BizJet, NORDAM and Spirit AeroSystems in Tulsa and Boeing, Northrop Grumman, AAR and ARINC in Oklahoma City as well as Tinker Air Force Base. In fact, Oklahoma has one of the highest concentrations of companies and skilled workers engaged in the maintenance, repair and overhaul, and modification of aircraft in the world.

No one does it better. Indeed, Oklahoma is one of the seven centers in the world for the maintenance, repair and overhaul of aircraft. Other states may build aircraft but Oklahoma keeps them flying and flying longer!