

AEROSPACE

INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT



DIVERSIFIED AEROSPACE INDUSTRY

Washington is a global center for aerospace innovation. The Boeing Co. was founded here in 1916; today there are about 650 companies in Washington that support commercial and defense aerospace, the growing Unmanned Aerial Vehicle sector and private space enterprises. The University of Washington, Washington State University and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory are among those engaged in applied research in advanced material, biofuels and cybersecurity research.

The Seattle-Puget Sound area has the highest concentration of aerospace companies, complemented by an aerospace cluster in Spokane and another in south-central Washington, where the UAV company Insitu is located.

Washington is also the home to Joint Base Lewis McChord and Fairchild Air Force base and the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station, all key defense locations. McChord has a large C-17 transport air wing; Fairchild is a KC-135 refueling tanker base; and Whidbey is home to a P-3 Orion surveillance wing that will be upgraded to Boeing's P-8 Poseidon now in flight testing.

Other industry sectors with major presence in Washington's aerospace cluster are avionics, engineering and research, composites, tooling and interiors and in-flight entertainment.

"Washington State's leaders and policy makers are fully engaged in supporting and growing the Aerospace Industry's footprint in the Northwestern United States. Washington's Aerospace base has the knowledge and skills required to provide Aerospace, Defense and Space customers with world class performance and products. The State is committed to developing the regional workforce to support the continued growth of Aerospace producers in the region."

Bruce Lind, President, General Plastics Manufacturing Company

SKILLED WORKFORCE AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

Washington's 83,700 aerospace workers serve about 650 companies—the greatest concentration of aerospace expertise in the world. With the largest concentration of software developers and second most aerospace engineers in the US, Washington talent is uniquely well-suited to meet the demands of current and future aircraft programs.

This highly skilled workforce provides productivity and quality control, enabling The Boeing Co. to produce aircraft at single-site production rates unmatched anywhere in the world. Aircraft dispatch reliability rated of 99.7% or better illustrate the quality and reliability of the aircraft produced by this workforce.

Washington has integrated aerospace training programs encompassing high schools, community colleges and state universities in cooperation with private industry and labor.

LEADING EDGE TECHNOLOGY

Aerospace is moving toward more use of composites and bio-fuels. Washington has more than 40 companies involved in composite technology. BMW-SGL selected the Moses Lake Grant County International Airport in Central Washington as the location to produce carbon fiber for its new composite electric car. Washington companies, including Boeing and Alaska Airlines, are leaders in the emerging bio-fuel industry.



WASHINGTON FAST FACTS

- 83,700 aerospace workers serve about 650 companies—the greatest concentration of aerospace expertise in the world
- Washington's aerospace industry supplies every major OEM, delivering about 500 commercial airliners, 700 UAVs annually
- More than 40 composites companies engaged in commercial and military aerospace programs
- Home to first FAA Center of Excellence, Institute for Shock Physics, Lamborghini Advanced Composite Structures Lab, Pacific NW National Labs biofuels and more leading research
- Lowest cost and abundant hydro-electric power
- Seattle, WA is #1 in North America for overall quality of operating environment for aerospace companies
- Critical mass of capabilities includes airframe manufacturing, avionics, composites, engineering and research, tooling, interiors and in-flight entertainment

PARIS AIR SHOW EXHIBIT # 3-E106

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LOW-COST ENERGY

Washington has some of the lowest cost energy in the US, due to its vast hydro-electric power generation. Washington also has major renewable energy sourcing.

NETWORKS & GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Washington's developed infrastructure and established trade networks make it a gateway to global markets and provide aerospace companies with business expansion opportunities:

- Washington was the largest exporter of aerospace products in 2010, accounting for 29.4% of national total
- Aerospace exports from Washington valued at \$23.3B in 2010
- 75 ports connect companies to markets around the world
- Washington is equidistant from Europe and Asia

FAVORABLE BUSINESS CLIMATE

Washington has one of the most favorable business climates in the United States, according to several independent assessments by organizations such as Forbes and U.S. News & World Report.



Washington has tax rates designed to incentivize the aerospace industry, research and development and to enable companies to retain a greater percentage of profits. There is no corporate or personal income tax in Washington.

SUPPORTING AEROSPACE

Washington has strong advocates in Congress, the State Legislature and in private industry who promote aerospace. The Washington Council on Aerospace creates and makes policy recommendations to the Governor to improve competitiveness. The Aerospace Futures Alliance lobbies the Legislature for improvements for the business climate. The Pacific Northwest Aerospace Coalition and Inland Northwest Aerospace Consortium are three key industry organizations supporting and promoting aerospace in Washington.

SEE OUR FULL SUMMARY

For more information, please see our full summary, [Washington State's Aerospace Business Case \(website link\)](#)

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Department of Commerce
Innovation is in our nature.