



best
OF THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY
IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH

We continue with our series of the “Best of Economic Development in the South” with the “Best of the Aerospace Industry in the American South.” The South’s aerospace industry had the two best back-to-back years in terms of project activity ever in 2016 and 2017. This ranking will assist you in finding a location in the South for your aerospace company.

The results are based on SB&D’s knowledge of the aviation and aerospace industry in the region, data from RandleReport.com and SB-D.com, and a poll of members of the Southern Economic Development Roundtable.

There are 10 categories per state in the “Best of the Aerospace Industry in the American South” and the communities or sites chosen are listed based on what we believe are the top of their classes.

We think you will enjoy reading the results of the “Best of the Aerospace Industry in the American South.” The aerospace industry is growing faster than any industry in the region. This unique forum can help guide you and your business to a profitable place in the American South, the third largest economy in the world.

This is Part 2 of a three-part series that will profile five of the 15 states in the South. Profiled here is the “Best of the Aerospace Industry” in Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina and Oklahoma.

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(TOP) There are several sites for large users at Chennault International Airport in Lake Charles, La.
(LOWER) England Airpark in Alexandria, La., features several sites along with two megasites.



1. Louisiana's Best Assets for the Aerospace Industry

- England Airpark
- Barksdale Air Force Base
- Michoud Assembly Facility
- Chennault International Airport
- Shreveport Regional Airport

Also receiving votes: Right to Work laws; Acadiana Regional Airport; Monroe Regional Airport; Baton Rouge Metro Airport; Available sites; Business climate; Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans; AIRSTA New Orleans; NAS JRB New Orleans; Low operating costs.

2. Louisiana's Most Important Employers in the Aerospace Industry

- Lockheed Martin
- NASA
- Boeing
- Northrop Grumman
- Bell Helicopter
- Rockwell Collins

Also receiving votes: Textron; Metro Aviation; Arrow Aviation; Haynes International; AvEx; K&B Industries; PHI; Sky Connect.

3. The Best in Aerospace R&D in Louisiana

- NASA Michoud
- Louisiana Center for Manufacturing Sciences
- Louisiana State University
- Louisiana Tech University
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- University of Louisiana at Monroe
- McNeese State University

4. Louisiana's Best Colleges for Aerospace Worker Training

- SOWELA Technical Community College
- South Louisiana Community College
- Baton Rouge Community College
- University of Louisiana at Monroe
- Louisiana Tech University
- Nunez Community College

Also receiving votes: University of Louisiana at Lafayette; McNeese State University.

5. Best Sites in Louisiana for Large Aerospace Assembly

- W1 Megasite England Airpark - Alexandria, La.
- W2 Megasite England Airpark - Alexandria, La.
- Franklin Farm Megasite - Richland Parish, La.
- Chennault International Airport - Lake Charles, La.
- Beauregard Airport Industrial Site - De Ridder, La.
- Shreveport Regional Airport - Shreveport, La.
- Monroe Regional Airport - Monroe, La.

6. Best Places in North Louisiana for Aerospace Companies

- Caddo Parish - Shreveport, La.
- Bossier Parish - Bossier City, La.
- Ouachita Parish - Monroe, La.
- Bienville Parish - Arcadia, La.

Also receiving votes: Lincoln Parish - Ruston, La.

7. Best Places in West Louisiana for Aerospace Companies

- Calcasieu Parish - Lake Charles, La.
- Caddo Parish - Shreveport, La.
- Bossier Parish - Bossier City, La.
- Beauregard Parish - De Ridder, La.

8. Best Places in Central Louisiana for Aerospace Companies

- Rapides Parish - Alexandria, La.
- East Baton Rouge Parish - Baton Rouge, La.
- Vernon Parish - Leesville, La.

9. Best Places in East Louisiana for Aerospace Companies

- Orleans Parish - New Orleans, La..
- St. Tammany Parish - Slidell, La.
- Ouachita Parish - Monroe, La.
- Plaquemines Parish - Belle Chasse, La.

10. Best Places in South Louisiana for Aerospace Companies

- Calcasieu Parish - Lake Charles, La.
- Lafayette Parish - Lafayette, La.
- Iberia Parish - New Iberia, La.

1. Mississippi's Best Assets for the Aerospace Industry

- Columbus Air Force Base
- Stennis Space Center
- Mississippi State's Raspet Flight Laboratory
- Keesler Air Force Base
- Low operating costs

Also receiving votes: Camp Shelby; Meridian Naval Air Station; Trent Lott International Airport; Available sites; Business climate; Incentives; Low cost utilities.

2. Mississippi's Most Important Employers in the Aerospace Industry

- Northrop Grumman
- GE Aviation
- Airbus Helicopters
- Rolls Royce
- Aerojet Rocketdyne
- Boeing
- Lockheed Martin
- NASA
- Columbus Air Force Base

Also receiving votes: Aurora Flight Sciences; L3; IAI North America; EATON; FINMECANICA; General Atomics; Ducommun; Orbital ATK; Raytheon; SpaceX; Stark Aerospace; Zodiac Aerospace; Keesler Air Force Base.

The Columbus Air Force Base in Columbus, Miss., is home to the 14th Flying Training Wing and has been since 1972.



3. The Best in Aerospace R&D in Mississippi

- Mississippi State University
- University of Southern Mississippi
- Center for Manufacturing Excellence
- Raspet Flight Research Laboratory

4. Mississippi's Best Colleges for Aerospace Worker Training

- Mississippi State University
- University of Southern Mississippi
- Hinds Community College
- Northwest Mississippi Community College

5. Best Sites in Mississippi for Large Aerospace Assembly

- Infinity Megasite - Columbus, Miss.
- Prairie Belt Powersite - West Point, Miss.
- The Hive - Lee County, Miss.
- Tri-County Commerce Park - Tishomingo County, Miss.
- Northeast Mississippi RailHub - Alcorn County, Miss.

6. Best Places in North Mississippi for Aerospace Companies

- DeSoto County - Hernando, Miss.
- Tishomingo County - Iuka, Miss.
- Lee County - Tupelo, Miss.
- Alcorn County - Corinth, Miss.
- Also receiving votes: Marshall County - Holly Springs, Miss.

The Stennis Space Center in Hancock County, Miss., has been a part of NASA's space exploration for years. Mainly a rocket engine test site, the Center has been involved in the International Space Station and Hubble Space Telescope. Several rocket engine manufacturers have facilities there. (LEFT) A test is being performed on one of the latest and most sophisticated Rolls-Royce civil aircraft engines.

(RIGHT) An RS-25 flight engine is lifted onto the A-1 Test Stand at Stennis in preparation for a scheduled test firing.



7. Best Places in West Mississippi for Aerospace Companies

- Hinds County - Jackson, Miss.
- Washington County - Greenville, Miss.
- Bolivar County - Cleveland, Miss.

8. Best Places in Central Mississippi for Aerospace Companies

- Hinds County - Jackson, Miss.
- Madison County - Canton, Miss.
- Scott County - Forest, Miss.
- Neshoba County - Philadelphia, Miss.

9. Best Places in East Mississippi for Aerospace Companies

- Lowndes County - Columbus, Miss.
- Tishomingo County - Iuka, Miss.
- Lee County - Tupelo, Miss.
- Lauderdale County - Meridian, Miss.

10. Best Places in South Mississippi for Aerospace Companies

- Hancock County - Bay St. Louis, Miss.
- Jackson County - Pascagoula, Miss.
- Harrison County - Gulfport, Miss.

Also receiving votes: Forrest County - Hattiesburg, Miss.



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1. Missouri's Best Assets for the Aerospace Industry

- Robust aerospace manufacturing sector
- Quality Workforce
- Central U.S. location
- Scott Air Force Base
- Whiteman Air Force Base

Also receiving votes: Right to Work laws; Boeing.

2. Missouri's Most Important Employers in the Aerospace Industry

- Boeing
- GKN Aerospace
- LMI Aerospace
- PAS Technologies
- Triumph Group
- May Technology

Also receiving votes: Aviation Technical Services; Ducommun; Essex; Heizer Aerospace; Patriot Machine.

3. The Best in Aerospace R&D in Missouri

- Center for Aerospace Manufacturing Technologies - Missouri S&T
- Intelligent Systems Center - Missouri S&T
- The Emerson Center for Engineering Manufacturing - St. Louis Community College

Also receiving votes: The Aerospace Institute of St. Louis Community College; The Center for Intelligent Maintenance Systems.

4. Missouri's Best Colleges for Aerospace Worker Training

- Missouri University of Science and Technology
- St. Louis Community College
- Saint Louis University
- Missouri State University

Also receiving votes: University of Missouri.

5. Best Sites in Missouri for Large Aerospace Assembly

- Wildwood Ranch - Joplin, Mo.
- Neosho Industrial Park - Neosho, Mo.
- Lake City Site - Independence, Mo.
- Rolla National Airport Industrial and Technology Park

6. Best Places in North Missouri for Aerospace Companies

- Adair County - Kirksville, Mo.
- Platte County - Platte City

Boeing Defense, Space & Security is headquartered outside St. Louis at the Lambert-St. Louis International Airport in Berkeley, Mo. Boeing has produced many aircraft from this location, including the T-X trainer aircraft (pictured).

7. Best Places in West Missouri for Aerospace Companies

- Jackson County - Kansas City, Mo.
- Jackson County - Blue Springs
- Jasper County - Joplin, Mo.

8. Best Places in Central Missouri for Aerospace Companies

- Phelps County - Rolla, Mo.
- Greene County - Springfield, Mo.
- Polk County - Bolivar, Mo.

9. Best Places in East Missouri for Aerospace Companies

- St. Louis County - Hazelwood, Mo.
- St. Louis County - Chesterfield, Mo.
- St. Louis County - Clayton, Mo.
- St. Charles County - O'Fallon, Mo.
- St. Charles County - St. Charles, Mo.

10. Best Places in South Missouri for Aerospace Companies

- Jasper County - Joplin, Mo.
- Pemiscot County - Caruthersville, Mo.
- Cape Girardeau County - Cape Girardeau, Mo.



Honda Aircraft Company's HondaJet, a light business jet, is assembled in Greensboro, N.C.



1. North Carolina's Best Assets for the Aerospace Industry

- Large labor force
- Low corporate income tax
- Marine Corps Air Station at Cherry Point
- Seymour Johnson Air Force Base
- Charlotte Douglas International Airport

Also receiving votes: North Carolina Global Transpark; North Carolina ports; Business climate; Incentives; Low operating costs; Low unionization rate.

2. North Carolina's Most Important Employers in the Aerospace Industry

- GE Aviation
- HondaJet
- Lockheed Martin
- Spirit Aerosystems
- BAE Systems

Also receiving votes: American Airlines; Boeing; ATI; SAFRAN Turbomeca; HAECO; LORD; UTC Aerospace Systems; Curtiss-Wright; B/E Aerospace; Honeywell; Triumph; Raytheon; UTC Aerospace Systems; EATON.

3. The Best in Aerospace R&D in North Carolina

- Institute for Transportation Research and Education at North Carolina State
- Spirit Aerosystems Composite Center of Excellence
- North Carolina Advanced Manufacturing Alliance
- North Carolina State University

4. North Carolina's Best Colleges for Aerospace Worker Training

- North Carolina State University
- Appalachian State University
- University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- Central Carolina Community College
- Randolph Community College

Also receiving votes: Embry-Riddle.

5. Best Sites in North Carolina for Large Aerospace Assembly

- Greensboro-Randolph Megasite - Randolph County, N.C.
- Chatham-Siler City Manufacturing Site - Chatham County, N.C.
- North Carolina's Global TransPark
- The Moncure Megasite - Chatham County, N.C.

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IN NORTH CAROLINA

6. Best Places in Northern North Carolina for Aerospace Companies

- Guilford County - Greensboro, N.C.
- Durham County - Durham, N.C.
- Forsyth County - Winston-Salem, N.C.

7. Best Places in Western North Carolina for Aerospace Companies

- Buncombe County - Asheville, N.C.
- Burke County - Morganton, N.C.
- Cleveland County - Shelby, N.C.

8. Best Places in Central North Carolina for Aerospace Companies

- Wake County - Raleigh, N.C.
- Durham County - Durham, N.C.
- Iredell County - Statesville, N.C.
- Randolph County - Asheboro, N.C.
- Chatham County - Pittsboro, N.C.

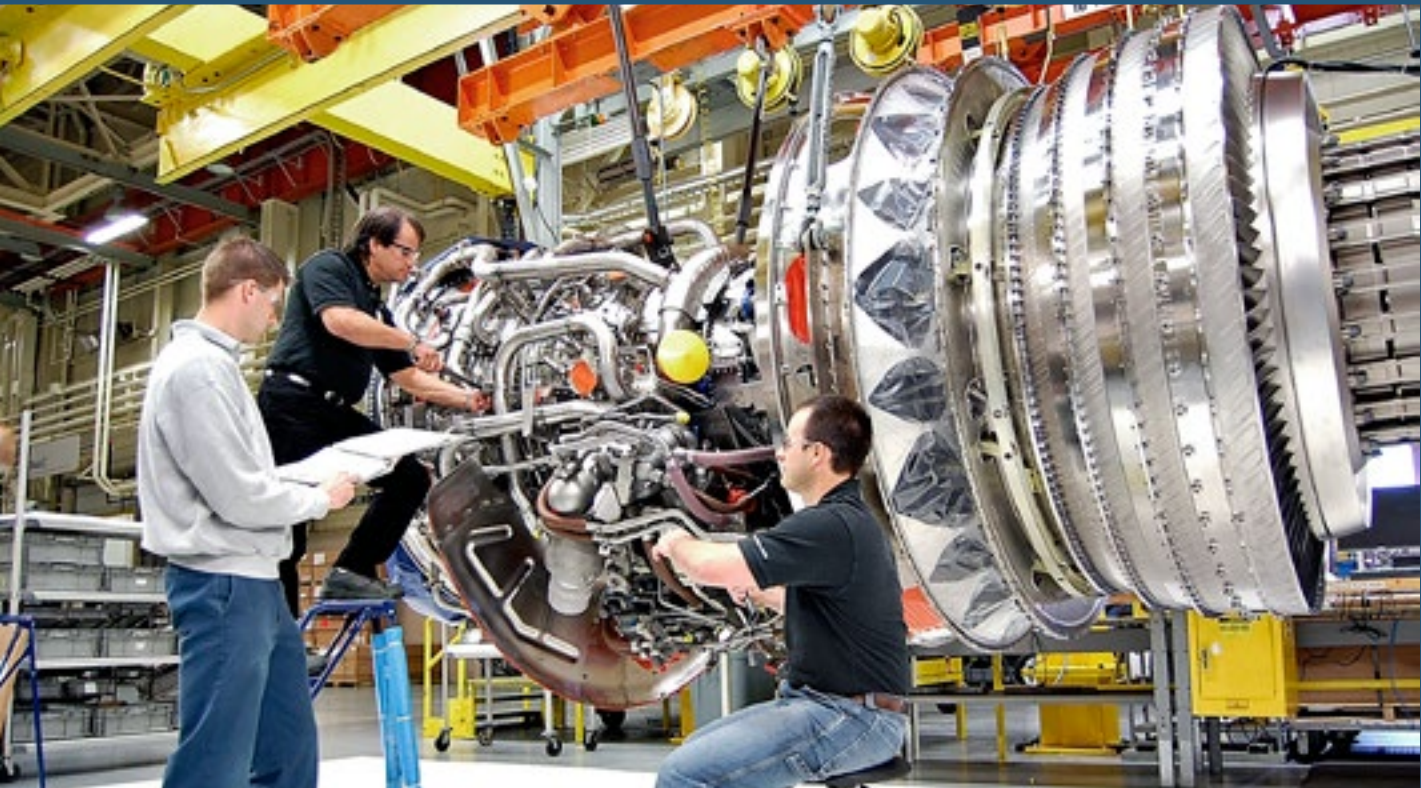
9. Best Places in Eastern North Carolina for Aerospace Companies

- Cumberland County - Fayetteville, N.C.
- New Hanover County - Wilmington, N.C.
- Onslow County - Jacksonville, N.C.
- Lenoir County - Kinston, N.C.
- Craven County - New Bern, N.C.

10. Best Places in Southern North Carolina for Aerospace Companies

- Union County - Monroe, N.C.
- Mecklenburg County - Charlotte, N.C.
- New Hanover County - Wilmington, N.C.

GE Aviation has several facilities in North Carolina. Pictured below is its Asheville facility, where it recently announced a \$105 million expansion.



1. Oklahoma's Best Assets for the Aerospace Industry

- Tinker Air Force Base
- American Airlines Maintenance and Engineering Ctr.
- Oklahoma City Air Logistics Complex
- FAA Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center
- The Oklahoma Air & Spaceport
- Vance Air Force Base

Also receiving votes: Altus Air Force Base; 21st Century Quality Jobs Program; Aerospace Engineer Workforce Tax Credit; Business climate; Central location; Incentives.

2. Oklahoma's Most Important Employers in the Aerospace Industry

- American Airlines
- Boeing
- GE Aviation
- Spirit Aerosystems
- Lockheed Martin

Also receiving votes: Pratt & Whitney; Northrop Grumman; Nordam; Lufthansa Technik; Asco Industries; ARINC; Flight Safety; BizJet .

3. The Best in Aerospace R&D in Oklahoma

- Tinker Air Force Base
- Boeing Defense
- University of Oklahoma
- Oklahoma State University

4. Oklahoma's Best Colleges for Aerospace Worker Training

- Oklahoma State University
- University of Oklahoma
- Oklahoma State University Tulsa

Also receiving votes: Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

5. Best Sites in Oklahoma for Large Aerospace Assembly

- Oklahoma Air & Space Port - Burns Flat, Okla.
- MidAmerica Industrial Park - Pryor, Okla.
- Ardmore Industrial Airpark - Ardmore, Okla.
- Lawton Airport Industrial Park - Lawton, Okla.

6. Best Places in North Oklahoma for Aerospace Companies

- Garfield County - Enid, Okla.
- Delaware County - Grove, Okla.
- Kay County - Newkirk, Okla.
- Kay County - Ponca City, Okla.

7. Best Places in West Oklahoma for Aerospace Companies

- Jackson County - Altus, Okla.
- Washita County - Burns Flatt, Okla.
- Woodward County - Woodward, Okla.

8. Best Places in Central Oklahoma for Aerospace Companies

- Oklahoma County - Oklahoma City, Okla.
- Oklahoma County - Midwest City, Okla.
- Canadian County - El Reno, Okla.
- Cleveland County - Norman, Okla.
- Oklahoma County - Edmond, Okla.
- Payne County - Stillwater, Okla.
- Pottawatomie County - Shawnee, Okla.

9. Best Places in East Oklahoma for Aerospace Companies

- Tulsa County - Tulsa, Okla.
- Mayes County - Pryor, Okla.
- Pittsburg County - McAlester, Okla.
- Tulsa County - Broken Arrow, Okla.

10. Best Places in South Oklahoma for Aerospace Companies

- Comanche County - Lawton, Okla.
- Carter County - Ardmore, Okla.
- Comanche County - Elgin, Okla. ★

(TOP LEFT) American Airlines' Tulsa Maintenance Base, known as Tech-Ops Tulsa, is the world's largest commercial airline maintenance facility at 3.3 million square feet in size.

(BOTTOM LEFT) The Oklahoma City Air Logistics Complex at Tinker Air Force Base is one of the largest units in the Air Force Materiel Command, with a team of 10,000 military and civilian professionals. MRO is performed on a variety of aircraft, including the KC-135 and B-52s.

