

 **best**
OF THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY
IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH



We continue with our series of the “Best of Economic Development in the American South” with the “Best of the Aerospace Industry in the American South.” The aerospace industry in the region had the two best back-to-back years ever in terms of project activity 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, 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 South, the third largest economy in the world. This is Part 1 of a three-part series that will profile five of the 15 states in the South. Profiled here is the best of aerospace in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia and Kentucky.

aerospace

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best

OF THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY
IN ALABAMA

1. Alabama's Best Assets for the Aerospace Industry

- Airbus final assembly facility
- Marshall Space Flight Center
- Redstone Arsenal
- Maxwell Air Force Base
- Brookley Aeroplex
- Alabama Community College System
- AIDT
- Port of Mobile

Also receiving votes: Right to work laws; Available sites; Business climate; Fort Rucker; Incentives; Location; Low cost utilities; Low operating costs.

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

- Redstone Arsenal
- Airbus/Brookley Aeroplex
- Boeing
- GE Aviation
- Lockheed Martin
- NASA

Also receiving votes: Marshall Space Flight Center; Raytheon; GKN Aerospace; Northrop Grumman; Sikorsky; BAE Systems; Commercial Jet; United Launch Alliance; UTC Aerospace Systems; Continental Motors.

3. The Best in Aerospace R&D in Alabama

- Marshall Space Flight Center
- Alabama Robotics Technology Park
- Auburn University
- ACCS Alabama Aviation Center
- University of Alabama Huntsville

Also receiving votes: University of Alabama.

4. Alabama's Best Community Colleges for Aerospace Worker Training

- Wallace State Community College
- Enterprise State Community College
- Calhoun Community College
- Coastal Alabama Community College

Also receiving votes: Snead State.

CONTINUED

The SLS Test Stand at the Marshall Space Flight Center will test the Space Launch System (SLS). It is the only facility that can handle something as big as the SLS hydrogen tank. The tanks are built at NASA's Michoud Assembly in New Orleans.



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Airbus' only U.S. full assembly plant is located in Mobile, Ala. It delivered the first of its A320 commercial jetliners in 2016.



5. Best Sites in Alabama for Large Aerospace Assembly

- South Alabama Megasite - Baldwin County, Ala.
- Wasden Russell Property - Montgomery County, Ala.
- Cogswell Industrial Park - St. Clair County, Ala.
- Westervelt Calera Megasite - Shelby County, Ala.

6. Best Places in North Alabama for Aerospace Companies

- Madison County - Huntsville, Ala.
- Morgan County - Decatur, Ala.
- Cullman County - Cullman, Ala.
- Limestone County - Athens, Ala.

Also receiving votes: Marion County - Hamilton, Ala.; The Shoals - Florence, Ala.

7. Best Places in West Alabama for Aerospace Companies

- Dallas County - Selma, Ala.
- Tuscaloosa County - Tuscaloosa, Ala.
- Walker County - Jasper, Ala.
- Marion County - Hamilton, Ala.

Also receiving votes: Fayette County - Fayette, Ala.

8. Best Places in Central Alabama for Aerospace Companies

- Montgomery County - Montgomery, Ala.
- Jefferson County - Birmingham, Ala.
- Elmore County - Wetumpka, Ala.

Also receiving votes: Autauga County - Prattville, Ala.; Bibb County - Centreville, Ala.; Shelby County - Calera, Ala.; Talladega County, Ala. - Talladega, Ala.

9. Best Places in East Alabama for Aerospace Companies

- Lee County - Auburn, Ala., Opelika, Ala.
- Macon County - Tuskegee, Ala.
- Calhoun County - Anniston, Ala.
- St. Clair County - Ashville, Ala.

Also receiving votes: Chambers County - Lafayette, Ala.

10. Best Places in South Alabama for Aerospace Companies

- Mobile County - Mobile, Ala.
- Baldwin County - Bay Minette, Ala.
- Houston County - Dothan, Ala.
- Dale County - Ozark, Ala.
- Covington County - Andalusia, Ala.

Also receiving votes: Coffee County - Enterprise, Ala.; Crenshaw County - Luverne, Ala.; Butler County - Greenville, Ala.

In the winter quarter, the U.S. Air Force selected the Alabama Air National Guard's 187th Fighter Wing in Montgomery, Ala., for the new F-35A fighter jet program, a decision that is expected to spur significant job creation and new investment.



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OF THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY
IN ARKANSAS

1. Arkansas' Best Assets for the Aerospace Industry

- Central location
- Over 100 public airports
- Arkansas Aeroplex
- Low operating costs

Also receiving votes: Available sites; Business climate; Incentives; Low cost utilities.

2. Arkansas' Most Important Employers in the Aerospace Industry

- Dassault Aviation
- Raytheon Missile Systems
- Lockheed Martin
- Aerojet Rocketdyne

Also receiving votes: Aviation Procurement Systems; Aviation Repair Technologies; Ducommun; Mundo-Tech; Pratt & Whitney; Triumph;

3. The Best in Aerospace R&D in Arkansas

- Little Rock Air Force Base
- Arkansas State University
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- Henderson State University

Also receiving votes: University of Arkansas.

4. Arkansas' Best Colleges for Aerospace Worker Training

- Henderson State University
- ASU Mid-South
- Southern Arkansas University Tech
- Arkansas State University
- University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Also receiving votes: University of Arkansas.

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Raytheon Missile Systems assemble missiles near Camden, Ark. Pictured is the U.S. Navy's SeaRAM weapon.



Frustrated by not having the time to get started on your marketing website?

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5. Best Sites in Arkansas for Large Aerospace Assembly

- West Memphis Megasite - Crittenden County, Ark.
- Little Rock Metro Megasite - Saline County, Ark.
- I-40 Industrial Site - Lonoke County, Ark.

6. Best Places in North Arkansas for Aerospace Companies

- Madison County - Huntsville, Ark.
- Washington County - Fayetteville, Ark., Springdale, Ark.
- Benton County - Bentonville, Ark., Springdale, Ark.
- Izard County - Melbourne, Ark.

7. Best Places in West Arkansas for Aerospace Companies

- Garland County - Hot Springs, Ark.
- Polk County - Mena, Ark.
- Washington County - Fayetteville, Ark.
- Benton County - Bentonville, Ark.
- Sebastian County - Fort Smith, Ark.

8. Best Places in Central Arkansas for Aerospace Companies

- Pulaski County - Little Rock, Ark.
- Garland County - Hot Springs, Ark.
- Jefferson County - Pine Bluff
- Pulaski County - North Little Rock, Ark.

9. Best Places in East Arkansas for Aerospace Companies

- Mississippi County - Blytheville, Ark.
- Crittenden County - Marion, Ark.
- Crittenden County - West Memphis, Ark.
- Independence County - Batesville, Ark.

10. Best Places in South Arkansas for Aerospace Companies

- Ouachita County - Camden, Ark.
- Columbia County - Magnolia, Ark.
- Calhoun County - Hampton, Ark.

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OF THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY
IN FLORIDA

1. Florida's Best Assets for the Aerospace Industry

- Kennedy Space Center
- Eglin Air Force Base
- MacDill Air Force Base
- Orlando International Airport

Also receiving votes: Business climate; Incentives; Low operating costs; Large aviation and aerospace cluster; Naval Air Station Pensacola; Miami International Airport; Tampa International Airport; Tyndall Air Force Base.

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

- Lockheed Martin
- Boeing
- SpaceX
- Northrop Grumman
- Embraer

Also receiving votes: NASA; Harris Corporation; United Launch Alliance; Rockwell Collins; Blue Origin; Pratt & Whitney; Sikorsky Aircraft; General Dynamics;

3. The Best in Aerospace R&D in Florida

- MacDill Air Force Base
- Kennedy Space Center
- SpaceX

4. Florida's Best Colleges for Aerospace Worker Training

- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- Florida Institute of Technology
- Florida International University
- University of Central Florida

Also receiving votes: University of Florida.

5. Best Sites in Florida for Large Aerospace Assembly

- Florida-Alabama Megasite - Jackson County, Fla.
- North Florida Mega Industrial Park - Columbia County, Fla.
- Crawford Diamond Industrial Park - Nassau County, Fla.

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SpaceX facilities are located at Cape Canaveral, Fla.



A C H I E V E A N Y T H I N G

"Our company has grown as a direct result of our location. We relocated here after more than 15 years in Texas. North Port is conveniently located near many transportation hubs and right on the interstate system. The work force is available and skilled. And the city boasts of a wonderful year-round climate."

Kevin Harris, CEO
Hot Sauce Harry's



Best Place for Manufacturing in Tampa Bay



Eglin Air Force Base near Fort Walton in Northwest Florida is the largest Air Force base in the country.



6. Best Places in North Florida for Aerospace Companies

- Bay County - Panama City, Fla.
- Okaloosa County - Crestview, Fla.
- Escambia County - Pensacola, Fla.
- Santa Rosa County - Milton, Fla.
- St. Johns County - St. Augustine, Fla.
- Duval County - Jacksonville, Fla.

7. Best Places in West Florida for Aerospace Companies

- Hillsborough County - Tampa, Fla.
- Pinellas County - St. Petersburg, Fla.
- Sarasota County - Sarasota, Fla.
- Lee County - Fort Myers, Fla.

8. Best Places in Central Florida for Aerospace Companies

- Orange County - Orlando, Fla.
- Osceola County - Kissimmee, Fla.
- Polk County - Bartow, Fla.
- Seminole County - Sanford, Fla.

9. Best Places in East Florida for Aerospace Companies

- Brevard County - Titusville, Fla.
- Volusia County - Deland, Fla.
- Martin County - Stuart, Fla.

10. Best Places in South Florida for Aerospace Companies

- Palm Beach County - West Palm Beach, Fla.
- Dade County - Miami, Fla.
- Broward County - Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

The LM-100J Super Hercules is built at Lockheed Martin's facilities in Marietta, Ga.



1. Georgia's Best Assets for the Aerospace Industry

- Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering
- U.S. Air Force Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex
- Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
- The Center of Innovation for Aerospace

Also receiving votes: Business climate; Incentives; Low operating costs; Quick Start training program.

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

- Delta Airlines
- Gulfstream Aerospace
- Lockheed Martin
- Pratt & Whitney

Also receiving votes: HAECO; Maule Air; PCC Airfoils; Stambaugh Aviation; StandardAero; Thrush Aircraft; Triumph Aerostructures.

3. The Best in Aerospace R&D in Georgia

- Robins Air Force Base
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Mercer Engineering Research Center
- Middle Georgia State University

4. Georgia's Best Colleges for Aerospace Worker Training

- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Mercer Engineering Research Center
- Middle Georgia State University

Also receiving votes: Embry-Riddle.

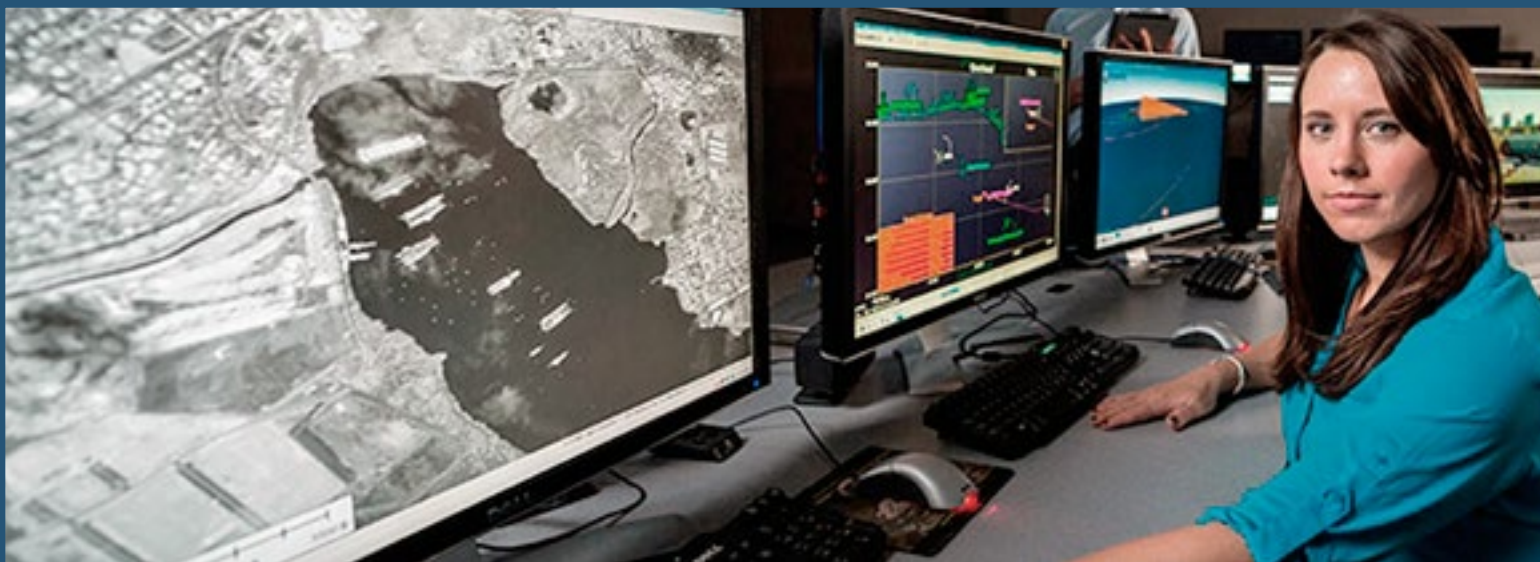
5. Best Sites in Georgia for Large Aerospace Assembly

- Heart of Georgia Megasite - Laurens County, Ga.
- Sibley-Smith Industrial Park - Baldwin County, Ga.
- Augusta Corporate Park - Richmond County, Ga.
- Bridgeport Site - Coweta County, Ga.

6. Best Places in North Georgia for Aerospace Companies

- Cobb County - Marietta, Ga.
- Fulton County - Atlanta, Ga.
- Gwinnett County - Lawrenceville, Ga.
- Hall County - Gainesville, Ga.

Lockheed Martin, which employs nearly 10,000 people in Central Florida, designs and manufactures all kinds of defense systems.



7. Best Places in West Georgia for Aerospace Companies

- Muscogee County - Columbus, Ga.
- Coweta County - Newnan, Ga.
- Carroll County - Carrollton, Ga.
- Fayette County - Fayetteville, Ga.
- Polk County - Cedartown, Ga.

8. Best Places in Central Georgia for Aerospace Companies

- Bibb County - Macon, Ga.
- Houston County - Warner Robins, Ga.
- Laurens County - Dublin, Ga.

9. Best Places in East Georgia for Aerospace Companies

- Chatham County - Savannah, Ga.
- Richmond County - Augusta, Ga.
- Effingham County - Springfield, Ga.

10. Best Places in South Georgia for Aerospace Companies

- Coffee County - Douglas, Ga.
- Colquitt County - Moultrie, Ga.
- Thomas County - Thomasville, Ga.



TOP PHOTO: Headquartered in Savannah, Gulfstream designs, builds and assembles its business aircraft in the Georgia port city.

BOTTOM PHOTO: The Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport has been the busiest in the world for 20 straight years.

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- Grayson RECC • Inter-County Energy • Jackson Energy • Licking Valley RECC • Nolin RECC • Owen Electric
- Salt River Electric • Shelby Energy • South Kentucky Rural Electric • Taylor County RECC

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OF THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY IN KENTUCKY

1. Kentucky's Best Assets for the Aerospace Industry

- Low operating costs
- Kentucky Aerospace Industry Consortium
- UPS Worldport
- Prime Air Hub

Also receiving votes: DHL Hub; Business climate; Central location; Incentives.

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

- UPS
- GE Aviation
- Raytheon
- Lockheed Martin
- Safran Landing Systems

Also receiving votes: BAE; Belcan; DHL; Prime Air; Meggitt; Phoenix Products; Space Tango.

3. The Best in Aerospace R&D in Kentucky

- Morehead State University
- University of Louisville
- Eastern Kentucky University
- Kentucky State University

Also receiving votes: Western Kentucky University.

4. Kentucky's Best Colleges for Aerospace Worker Training

- Morehead State University
- University of Louisville
- Eastern Kentucky University

Also receiving votes: Kentucky State University; Western Kentucky University.

5. Best Sites in Kentucky for Large Aerospace Assembly

- Glendale Megasite - Hardin County, Ky.
- West Kentucky Megasite - Graves County, Ky.

6. Best Places in North Kentucky for Aerospace Companies

- Jefferson County - Louisville, Ky.
- Boone County - Burlington, Ky.
- Kenton County - Covington, Ky.
- Campbell County - Newport, Ky.

7. Best Places in West Kentucky for Aerospace Companies

- Hopkins County - Madisonville, Ky.
- Daviess County - Owensboro, Ky.
- McCracken County - Paducah, Ky.
- Graves County - Mayfield, Ky.

8. Best Places in Central Kentucky for Aerospace Companies

- Fayette County - Lexington, Ky.
- Hardin County - Elizabethtown, Ky.
- Boyle County - Danville, Ky.

9. Best Places in East Kentucky for Aerospace Companies

- Jackson County - McKee, Ky.
- Powell County - Stanton, Ky.
- Rowan County - Morehead, Ky.

10. Best Places in South Kentucky for Aerospace Companies

- Christian County - Hopkinsville, Ky.
- Warren County - Bowling Green, Ky.
- Pulaski County - Somerset, Ky.
- Laurel County - London, Ky. 🌟



TOP PHOTO: The Space Science Center at Morehead State University

CENTER PHOTO: Raytheon makes defense systems in Louisville, including this missile launch system.



BOTTOM PHOTO: Worldport hub, located in Louisville, Ky., is UPS's largest air facility. It processes an average of 1.6 million packages a day using 155 miles of conveyors. The massive facility houses over 20,000 employees.

MAJOR IN YOUR PASSION FOR THE STARS.

The Space Science Center at Morehead State University (Morehead, Kentucky) is a research and education center that focuses on the design, development and operation of small satellites and on providing hands-on training to the next generation of aerospace engineers through three degree programs.

SPACE SCIENCE PROGRAMS

- Master of Science in Space Systems Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Astrophysics
- Bachelor of Science in Space Science

The Center provides satellite telemetry, tracking and control services with the 21 meter Space Tracking Antenna. The Center also provides spacecraft environmental testing services including: vibration analysis, T-Vac testing, EM testing, and residual gas analysis.

The Center's staff and students have successfully flown several small satellite space missions with NASA and industry partners. Lunar IceCube, currently in development under a partnership with NASA Goddard Spaceflight Center, JPL, and Busek, has been selected to fly on NASA's Exploration Mission-1 in 2018- the maiden voyage of the Space Launch System- the most powerful rocket ever built.



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