Alabama’s aviation/aerospace industry has been integral to U.S. Space and Defense programs for more than 50 years.

Today, Alabama is home to hundreds of aerospace, aviation, and defense-related companies supporting both government and commercial markets and has attracted investment from companies around the globe.

**Airbus Begins Production of First U.S. – Built A320 in Mobile (2015)**

This marks another important milestone for the Alabama manufacturing facility. Since it began production in July 2015, 27 A321 aircraft have been delivered from the facility.

Airbus Press Release (May 2017)

**Airbus launches A220 production on new Alabama assembly line (2020)**

Airbus launched production of A220 aircraft at its newly constructed Final Assembly Line hangar at its Alabama manufacturing facility in May 2020.


**Airbus announces third Final Assembly Line (2022)**

Airbus announced plans to ramp up global production of A320 Family jets.

https://www.madeinalabama.com/2022/05/airbus-alabama-expansion-project-adding-1000-jobs-in-mobile/

**OVERVIEW**

Alabama’s aviation/aerospace industry has been integral to U.S. Space and Defense programs for more than 50 years.

Today, Alabama is home to hundreds of aerospace, aviation, and defense-related companies supporting both government and commercial markets and has attracted investment from companies around the globe.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Alabama ranks 11th among US states** for total employment in Aerospace Products and Parts Manufacturing (NAICS 3364).
- Aerospace Products and Parts **exports were valued at over $1.4 billion** in 2021.
- Alabama’s aviation, aerospace and defense sectors are made up of equipment manufacturers (OEMs), maintenance, repair & overhaul (MRO), material and component manufacturers, engineering and technical service providers, research and development (R&D) companies, and other product and service providers – over 300 companies.
- **Alabama is home to Airbus’ first American jetliner production facility.**
- **Blue Origin opened their 350,000 square-foot facility in Huntsville that will allow the spaceflight company to accelerate production of its heavy-lift BE-4 rocket engine.** Blue Origin will test its Alabama-made engines at Marshall Space Flight Center.
In 2012, Airbus announced that it would build the company’s first American jetliner production facility in Mobile.

Final assembly and production on the Airbus A320 family of aircraft began in 2015. Airbus began delivering aircraft to customers in early 2016.

**FAST FACTS**

- **Location:** Mobile, Alabama
- **Announced:** July 2, 2012
- **Production Start:** 2015
- **Products:** A319, A320, A321, & A220 aircraft
- **Investment:** $600 million
- **Job Creation:** 1,000 direct jobs

**ALABAMA : PART OF A GROWING SOUTHEAST INDUSTRY**

Airbus and Alabama are part of a well-established and growing Southeast industry in aircraft manufacturing.

www.edpa.org / (205)943-4700
**HIGHLIGHTS, AEROSPACE PRODUCTS AND PARTS**

**Average Employment: Aerospace Products and Parts Manufacturing**


**Average Weekly Wage: Aerospace Products and Parts Manufacturing 2021**


**Dollar Value of Alabama Exports: Aircraft, Spacecraft and Parts**

- Source: Alabama Department of Commerce, International Trade Division, 2021

United Launch Alliance

Airbus Engineering Center

GE Aviation jet engine components factory
AVIATION, AEROSPACE AND DEFENSE AROUND THE STATE

Huntsville and North Alabama
- Huntsville is one of the country’s principal centers for space and defense technology.

- Huntsville is home to Redstone Arsenal and NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center where the Saturn V rocket was designed and the next-generation Space Launch System is being developed.

- Cummings Research Park (Huntsville) is one of the world’s leading science and technology business parks.

- Boeing and Lockheed Martin have made major contributions to the space and defense industry advancement in Huntsville for over 50 years.

- In 2015, GE Aviation announced that it will invest more than $200 million to produce advanced materials to support the aerospace industry.

- In 2015, Hexcel announced a $150 million expansion at its facility in Decatur.

- Other notable companies in the Huntsville area include Aegis Technologies, SAIC, SES, Raytheon, COLSA Corporation, Teledyne Brown Engineering and United Launch Alliance (Decatur).

Mobile and Southwest Alabama
- Mobile’s Brookley Aeroplex is one of the largest industrial complexes on the Gulf Coast and is home to a number of aviation and aerospace companies including Airbus Americas Engineering, Star Aviation, VTMAE, Continental Motors, and Safran.

- Brookley Aeroplex was selected as the location for Airbus’ first American jetliner production facility. Production on its A320 family of aircraft began in 2015 and the first Alabama-assembled jetliner, a A321, was delivered in 2016.

- In 2015, Airbus Defense and Space selected Mobile-based Airbus DS Military Aircraft Inc. as its new worldwide support center for the C212 aircraft series.

- In 2015, MAAS Aviation announced a $39 million twin-bay paint facility and Paris-based Hutchinson Corporation announced a $2 million aerospace manufacturing center of excellence in Mobile and 100 jobs.

- Other notable aerospace companies in the area include UTC Aerospace Systems (Foley), and Segers Aero (Fairhope).

Dothan and Southeast Alabama
- Enterprise Community College (avionics and aviation mechanics training) and Fort Rucker - the Army Aviation Center of the United States - play a strong role in the development of aviation jobs in southeast Alabama.

- In 2014, Lockheed Martin (near Troy) broke ground for its Long Range Strike Systems cruise missile production. In 2015, the company announced the addition of 240 employees at the facility by 2020.

- In 2014, Alabama Aircraft Support (Enterprise) broke ground on a $12 million aircraft maintenance hangar facility at Enterprise Municipal Airport.

- Commercial Jet, an MRO (maintenance, repair, and overhaul) services provider recently began operations at the Dothan Regional Airport in a 400,000 sf. ft. aircraft servicing and maintenance facility.

- Other notable companies in southeast Alabama include Vector Aerospace (Andalusia), DRS Technologies (Andalusia), and Sikorsky Aircraft (Troy).

Other notable aerospace companies are located throughout the state and are part of a growing aerospace infrastructure in the Southeast.
# Recent Expansions and New Projects (Partial List)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Jobs Created</th>
<th>Investment (Millions)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2021</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turbine Worx Inc</td>
<td>Dallas</td>
<td>Aircraft Maintenance, Upgrades &amp; Charter Services</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>$0.4 (New)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avans Machine Inc.</td>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td>High Precision Components Used in Aerospace Defense &amp; Industrial</td>
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<td>$1.0 (Expansion)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dynetics</td>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>Aircraft Parts &amp; Equipment Manufacturing</td>
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<td>$8.2 (Expansion)</td>
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<td>Northrop Grumman</td>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>Aircraft Parts &amp; Equipment Manufacturing</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>$25.2 (Expansion)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2020</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Airbus</td>
<td>Mobile</td>
<td>Aircraft Production Facility &amp; Assembly Station</td>
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<td>Aircraft Parts Manufacturing</td>
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<td>Morgan</td>
<td>Machine Shop for Aerospace and Defense</td>
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<td>$3.5 (Expansion)</td>
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<td><strong>2019</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Segers Aero Corporation</td>
<td>Baldwin</td>
<td>Aerospace MRO</td>
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<td>$4.3 (Expansion)</td>
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<td>DynCorp Aviation</td>
<td>Covington</td>
<td>Helicopter MRO</td>
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<td>$152 (Expansion)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Globalstar Aero</td>
<td>Dale</td>
<td>Aircraft Maintenance and Repair</td>
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<td>$1 (Expansion)</td>
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<td><strong>2018</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Airbus</td>
<td>Mobile</td>
<td>A220 jets</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>$300 (Expansion)</td>
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<td>Doncasters Southern Tool</td>
<td>Calhoun</td>
<td>Metal Products</td>
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<td>Helicopter MRO</td>
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<td>Madison</td>
<td>Remotely Controlled Weapons Systems</td>
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<td>Pike</td>
<td>Missiles</td>
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<td>Resicum International LLC</td>
<td>Baldwin</td>
<td>Aviation Training and Maintenance</td>
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<td>New</td>
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<td>Southern Sky Aviation</td>
<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>Aviation MRO</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>New</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stewart Industries International</td>
<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>Aviation MRO</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>New</td>
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<td><strong>2017</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aerojet Rockeydyne</td>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>Rocket Engine, Mfg</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>$137 (Expansion)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Continental Motors</td>
<td>Mobile</td>
<td>Piston engine manufacturing</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$60 (Expansion)</td>
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<td>Dynetics</td>
<td>Morgan</td>
<td>Mfg. parts for NASA &amp; others</td>
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<td>$7.3 (Expansion)</td>
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<td>Raytheon Company</td>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>Missiles &amp; Space Vehicles, Mfg</td>
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<td>United Launch Alliance</td>
<td>Morgan</td>
<td>Rocket boosters</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$115 (Expansion)</td>
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<td>Blue Origin</td>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>Rocket Engine, Mfg</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>$90 (New)</td>
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<td>Morgan</td>
<td>Aerospace testing facility</td>
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<td>Global Aviation Services</td>
<td>Marshall</td>
<td>Helicopter repair and overhaul</td>
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<td>N/A (New)</td>
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<tr>
<td>RUAG Space</td>
<td>Morgan</td>
<td>Enclosures to cover satellites</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>N/A (New)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safran USA</td>
<td>Mobile</td>
<td>Aircraft engine nacelle systems</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>$1.0 (New)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION

- **Alabama Industrial Development Training (AIDT)** was established to help new and expanding Alabama companies recruit and train an outstanding workforce. AIDT is consistently recognized for its excellence.

- **Institutions of higher education** across the state work closely with aerospace and defense companies to align programs with industry needs. 28 four-year colleges and universities and 24 two-year community and technical colleges - strategically located throughout the state - provide Alabamians with educational opportunities to meet the emerging needs of industry.

- Four universities—Auburn University, University of Alabama, Tuskegee University, and University of Alabama in Huntsville, offer degrees in Aerospace Engineering.

- Alabama’s Auburn University receives the nation’s first FAA authorization to operate an Unmanned Aircraft Systems Flight School.

- **Aerospace Education Research and Innovation Center (AERIC)** at Tuskegee University supports two-year research projects in the areas of fatigue damage tolerance, experimental aerodynamics, and the performance of materials and components under extreme environmental conditions. AERIC also helps expand Alabama’s aerospace workforce talent pipeline.

The Alabama Aviation Training Center, operated by AIDT, is preparing workers for the Airbus A320 Family Assembly Line (FAL).

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### Alabama Aviation Centers

- **Aviation College at Mobile**
- **Ozark Campus**
- **Andalusia Campus**
- **Calhoun’s Community College Associate of Applied Science degree in Aerospace Technology offers a concentration in Structures and Assembly or Welding. It prepares graduates for employment in the aerospace and related industries through classroom and hands-on laboratory instruction in propulsion structures and assembly or specialized welding.**

### Other Aviation Education Locations

- **The Academy at the Fairhope Airport**
- **Aviation Education Center**
- **The Academy at the Fairhope Airport**
- **Alabama Aerospace & Aviation High School**
- **The Alabama Aerospace & Aviation High School (AAHS) gives students the opportunity to develop career-ready skills and even earn industry certifications with the school’s aerospace and aviation partnerships. A 55,000 square foot, $20 million building is being built near the Bessemer Airport.**

- **The Aviation Education Center will be built near the Airbus Final Assembly Line at Brookley. To be managed by Airbus Americas Inc., it will feature classrooms, workshops and “innovation rooms,” along with flight-themed exhibits and education programming to inspire young people to pursue careers in the aerospace industry.**

- **The Academy offers courses in aviation, industrial maintenance, and welding. This $2.7 million facility is a cooperative partnership with Coastal Alabama Community College, the Fairhope Airport Authority, and the Baldwin County Board of Education to train high school students, college students, and working age adults to pursue aerospace and aviation careers.**
MAJOR MILESTONES

1930s
- Maxwell Air Force Base became the designated home of the U.S. Army Air Force Tactical School for professional military education.

1940s
- Redstone Arsenal was established in Huntsville.

1950s
- Werner Von Braun came to Huntsville.

1960s
- Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) opened at Redstone Arsenal, making Huntsville a major center for the future development of rockets and space exploration.
- Apollo 4 launched using the Saturn V rocket developed at MSFC.

1970s
- The Alabama Space and Rocket Center opened in Huntsville, becoming the future site of the U.S. Space Camp and Space Academy.
- The Lunar Roving Vehicle, built in Huntsville, was driven on the moon.

1980s
- The first Space Shuttle mission was powered into orbit by the main engine and solid rocket boosters developed by the Marshall Space Flight Center.
- Lockheed Martin moved its smart missile operations from Orlando, Florida to Troy, Alabama.

1990s
- The Army’s Aviation and Missile Command moved to Huntsville.

1998
- Boeing announced that the Delta IV rocket would be built in Decatur.

2003
- Boeing Delta IV rockets were consolidated to Alabama for production. The facility is now part of the United Launch Alliance joint venture between Boeing and Lockheed-Martin.

2006
- NASA Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville was named as a key Center for the development of Ares I and Ares V Rockets.

2007
- Airbus North America Engineering opened a premier engineering center in Mobile’s Brookley Aeroplex.

2009
- Headquarters U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command moved to Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville.

2012
- Alabama was chosen as home of Airbus’ U.S. A320 family final assembly line - the company’s first-ever production of jetliners on American soil.

2015
- The Airbus U.S. Manufacturing Facility commenced aircraft assembly in Mobile.

2016

2017
- Airbus begins assembly of the first A320.

2020
- Airbus has added A220 production with its new final assembly line.

Sources:
- Alabama Department of Commerce, Business Development and International Trade
- US Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Alabama Aerospace Industry Association
- USA spending.gov
- Alabama Commission on Higher Education
- NASA
- Redstone Arsenal
- Marshall Space Flight Center
- Miscellaneous news articles/announcements

January 2020