The aviation and aerospace industries have a long history of success in Mississippi. Pioneer Aerospace, a part of Zodiac Aerospace, has manufactured parachute systems in Mississippi since the 1930s. NASA’s Stennis Space Center has been crucial to every NASA mission since the 1960s and continues to be the largest rocket engine test complex in the U.S. Today, companies like GE Aviation, Rolls-Royce and Lockheed Martin rely on Mississippi’s supportive business environment, transportation infrastructure and skilled workforce.

Mississippi also plays a leading role in the design, testing and manufacture of unmanned aerial systems. Industry leaders Stark Aerospace, Northrop Grumman, Insitu and Aurora Flight Sciences all have locations in the state.
Virtually every commercial plane in the world has at least one component made in Mississippi.

Aerospace in Mississippi

- Aerojet Rocketdyne – Stennis Space Center
- Airbus Helicopters – Columbus
- Aurora Flight Sciences – Columbus
- Boeing – Flowood
- Eaton Aerospace – Jackson
- GE Aviation – Batesville & Ellisville
- GE Capital Aviation Services – Greenwood
- General Atomics – Shannon
- Insitu – Columbus
- Israel Aerospace Industries – Columbus
- L-3 Communications Vertex Aerospace – Madison
- Lockheed Martin – Meridian
- Lockheed Martin – Stennis Space Center
- NASA – Stennis Space Center
- Northrop Grumman – Moss Point
- Orbital ATK – Iuka
- Pioneer Aerospace – a Zodiac Company – Columbia
- Raytheon – Forest
- Rolls-Royce – Stennis Space Center
- SELEX Galileo – Kiln
- SpaceX – Stennis Space Center
- Tyonek – just announced – Kiln
- Universal Asset Management – Tupelo
- Zodiac Aero Evacuation Systems – Liberty

NASA’s John C. Stennis Space Center is a unique federal city, home to more than 30 federal, state, academic, and private organizations and numerous technology-based companies.
Mississippi is centrally located between the East and West coasts and provides easy access to major U.S. markets, including Mobile, New Orleans, Atlanta, Nashville, Dallas, Houston and St. Louis. The U.S. distribution hub of Memphis, Tennessee is across the northern state line, and the Gulf of Mexico forms our southern border.

Aerospace and aviation companies also benefit from an established industry infrastructure and numerous nearby suppliers. Of particular interest to research and development companies are the state’s research universities and NASA’s Stennis Space Center. Stennis is not only home to NASA and other federal tenants, but also many major private companies and R&D initiatives.

Companies contracting with the Department of Defense also enjoy close proximity to important military installations, including Columbus and Keesler Air Force bases, the Army’s Camp Shelby, and Meridian Naval Air Station.

Strategic Location

For Overall Performance & Cost Effectiveness of Highway Systems

(21st Annual Highway Report)
Skilled Workforce

Mississippi is committed to understanding and meeting businesses’ needs. Our state provides one of the strongest workforce training programs in the nation through our #1 ranked community college network. State officials work closely with companies to tailor workforce training programs to meet specific industry needs.

Mississippi’s university system offers exceptional research facilities, in addition to a steady talent pool of aerospace and aviation workers specializing in polymer science, aerospace engineering, commercial aviation and jet engine mechanics.

Our research universities collaborate with industry partners on relevant research and development initiatives. The Raspet Flight Research Laboratory at Mississippi State University is the largest flight lab of its kind in the U.S. The University of Southern Mississippi offers one of the nation’s premier polymer research facilities. The University of Mississippi offers a prime training ground for engineers, managers and researchers with its Center for Manufacturing Excellence.

**WORKFORCE TRAINING**

Mississippi is a Right to Work State. (National Conference of State Legislatures)

- #3 For Competitive Labor Costs in 2015
- Customized Skills Training

- 15 community colleges
- 8 public universities
- 4 research universities
Mississippi offers a strong, supportive business climate. The spirit of cooperation is high, and the price of doing business is low. Construction costs, energy rates and business tax rates in Mississippi fall below the national average. The state offers a variety of incentive programs, which can be customized to meet the needs of each project.

**Business Incentives**

Mississippi offers a strong, supportive business climate. The spirit of cooperation is high, and the price of doing business is low. Construction costs, energy rates and business tax rates in Mississippi fall below the national average. The state offers a variety of incentive programs, which can be customized to meet the needs of each project.
Mississippi also offers the **Aerospace Initiative Incentives Program**, which provides additional tax incentives for aerospace-related businesses locating or expanding in the state. Eligible businesses may receive a 10-year state income tax exemption, 10-year franchise tax exemption and an exemption from sales and use taxes for the start-up of the facility. This incentive program applies to businesses engaged in manufacturing, research and development and training services within the aerospace and aviation industry.

**FAA’s Unmanned Center of Excellence** The Federal Aviation Administration selected Mississippi State University as the location for its Unmanned Aerial Systems Center of Excellence (ASSURE). At the civilian academic center, Mississippi State University will lead 22 other member universities and more than 100 industry partners to assist the FAA with research methods to integrate UAS into the national airspace.

**Unmanned in Mississippi Works** Research & development, testing, operations and manufacturing are all part of Mississippi’s expertise in unmanned systems. The state also offers unmanned evaluations for marine/environmental, precision agricultural, military systems and commercial applications.

Join these companies in our strong aerospace community.