NORTHERN UTAH

AEROSPACE & DEFENSE INDUSTRY STUDY

2024

NORTHERN UTAH ECONOMIC ALLIANCE



KIHOMAC

JANICKI INDUSTRIES

NORTHROP GRUMMAN

Williams INTERNATIONAL

NORTHERN
UTAH
ECONOMIC
ALLIANCE

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Executive Summary

The Aerospace and Defense sector has a deep history in northern Utah. It began with the missile industry in 1957, when Thiokol Chemical Corporation opened its solid rocket plant and test range west of Brigham City and its rocket headquarters in Ogden. In 1960, the region added the construction of the Minuteman missile assembly and recycle plant at Hill Air Force Base (HAFB). Today, HAFB is the epicenter of northern Utah's Aerospace and Defense sector. As this report shows, all indicators point to continued explosive growth. The base spans across Davis and Weber Counties and is the largest military installation and single-site employer in Utah. In 2023, HAFB infused $11 billion dollars into Utah's economy. As the anchor for Utah's Aerospace and Defense industry, HAFB is a magnet for major companies like BAE Systems, Boeing, Borsight, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Parker Hannifin, Janicki Industries, Williams International, and many others that have found fertile ground in northern Utah.

"As the hub for aerospace activities, northern Utah benefits from tremendous support from state and local government entities and strategic partnerships. Northern Utah is home to world-class Aerospace and Defense companies. Our talented workforce and supply chain make Utah a premier destination where companies can thrive," stated Ryan Starks, executive director of the Utah Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity (GOEO). "Utah's Aerospace and Defense industry is one of Utah's key targeted industries and plays an important role in growing Utah's strong economy."



Photo: Northrop Grumman

Major Contributors to Aerospace & Defense in Northern Utah

Utah's Aerospace and Defense industry created more than 78,620 jobs and generated more than $15 billion in economic activity in the state in 2023 through direct and indirect activities. Northern Utah is the epicenter of the state's success as a premiere destination for Aerospace and Defense businesses.[1]

There are more than 31,000 total personnel working within HAFB, including 5,140 military, 4,407 military dependents, 868 Air Force Reserve/Air National Guard, 14,533 civilians, and 6,221 contract civilians. In 2023, HAFB had an annual federal payroll of $1.6 billion and annual expenditures of $3.8 billion. It's estimated HAFB adds $5.6 billion in indirect jobs, for a total of $11 billion in total economic impact.[2]

Northern Utah is making history as home to the United States Air Force's largest acquisition program ever, the $125 billion Sentinel intercontinental missile system (formerly Ground Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD)).

The new Sentinel weapon system will replace the current arsenal of 400 LGM-30 Minuteman III ICBMs, which have been a cornerstone of national security policy and fundamental to continued protection for the U.S. and its allies. This program is estimated to take 20 years to complete. Northrop Grumman was awarded the first contract, $13.3 billion for 8.5 years to modernize the system for the engineering and manufacturing development phase of the program. It includes weapon system design, qualification, test and evaluation, and nuclear certification. It is anticipated that the Sentinel project will generate more than 3,000 new jobs.

Meanwhile, HAFB's Ogden Air Logistics Complex provides maintenance, modification, and repair for the fifth generation F-35 fighter jet at the Air Force's depot maintenance facility. Meanwhile, Utah State University's Space Dynamics Lab (SDL) located 59 miles north of HAFB in Logan, Utah, works with the Department of Defense and industry in defending and protecting our nation as well as supporting NASA's vision to "reveal the unknown for the benefit of humankind." SDL's solutions include improving data gathering and analysis tools for all branches of the military and powerful remote and in-situ sensing solutions, with an emphasis in electro-optical sensing in the near ultraviolet (UV) to far infrared (IR).

1. JobsEQ
2. Hill Air Force Base Economic Impact Analysis 2023



A-10 Warthogs in flight above Hill Airforce Base

AEROSPACE AND DEFENSE

Northern Utah's aerospace industry is anchored by Hill Air Force Base, which is the epicenter for the development of the Sentinel missile system, formerly known as the Ground-Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD) missile system. Our aerospace and defense industry includes a diverse range of companies, products, and systems for commercial and military applications.

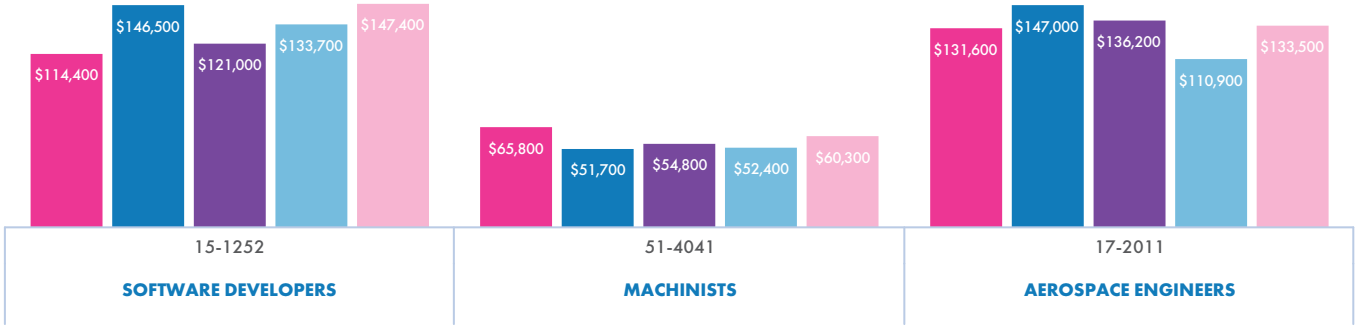
Some of the aerospace and defense companies located in Northern Utah include Northrop Grumman, Boeing, Janicki Industries, Lockheed Martin, General Dynamics, BAE Systems, Inc., Barnes Aerospace, Parker Hannifin Control Systems, Williams International, Borsight, JBT Aerotech, Petersen, Inc., and many others.

These companies research, develop, design, and manufacture systems and parts in support of military and civilian operations.

Why Utah? Here are a few great reasons:

1. A talent-ready, highly educated workforce.
2. Utah Aerospace Pathways Program to develop skilled workers.
3. Lower cost of doing business.
4. Research universities that collaborate with aerospace and defense companies to drive affordable innovation and excellence.
5. Government leaders that try to reduce and eliminate red tape at the local and national level.
6. A strong concentration of aerospace companies located in Northern Utah.
7. A concentration of advanced composites companies supporting the aerospace industry.
8. A strong supply chain.

Aerospace Median Wage



- OGDEN-CLEARFIELD, UT MSA
- LOS ANGELES-LONG BEACH-ANAHEIM, CA MSA
- PHOENIX-MESA-CHANDLER, AZ MSA
- CHICAGO-NAPERVILLE-ELGIN, IL-IN-WI MSA
- NEW YORK-NEWARK-JERSEY CITY, NY-NJ-PA MSA

Source: JobsEQ, data as of 2023Q3

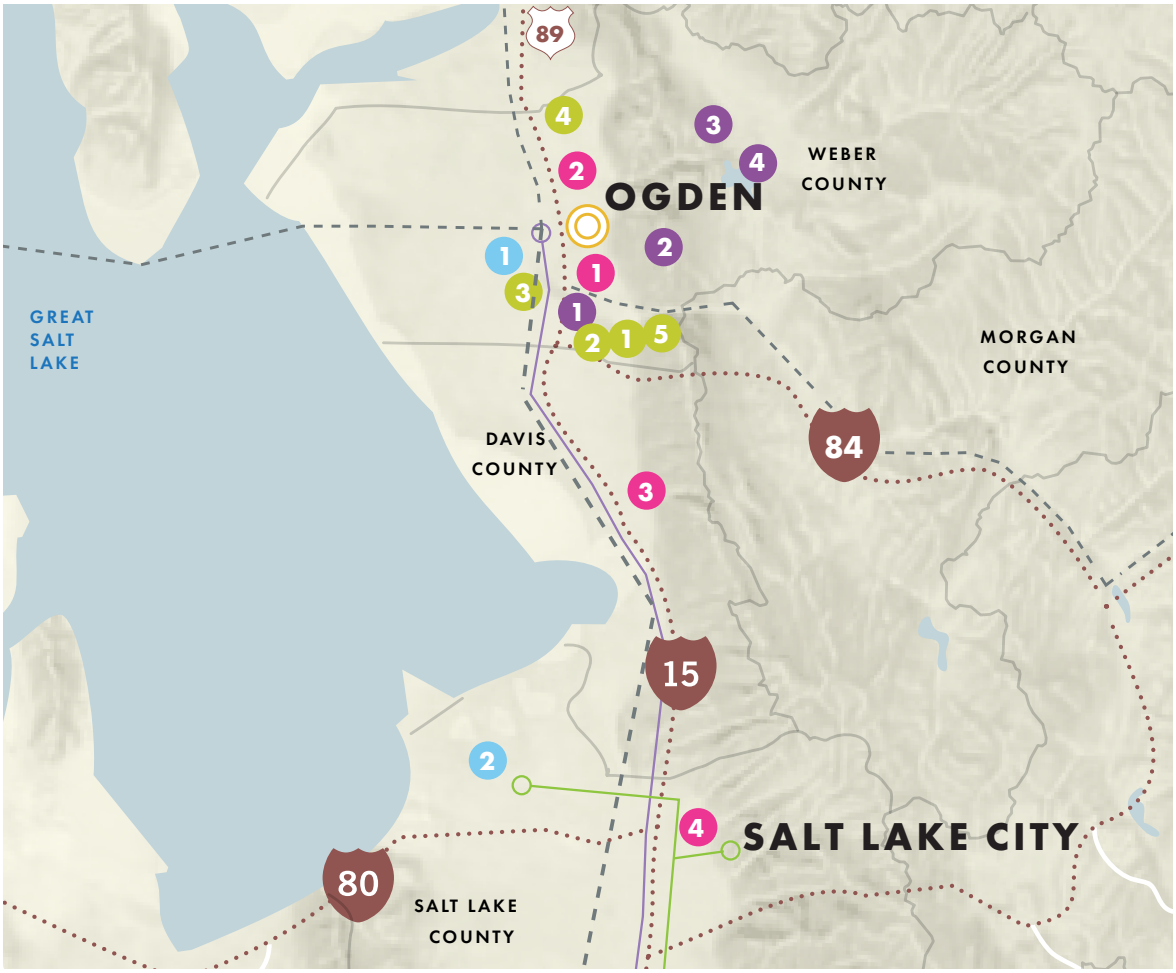
NORTHERN UTAH ECONOMIC ALLIANCE

MAJOR EMPLOYERS[3]

MAJOR AEROSPACE EMPLOYERS		
Company	**Employees**	**Description**
Northrop Grumman	5000–5999	Northrop Grumman manufactures and tests navigation and situational awareness products that are used in platforms from undersea to outer space and supports ICBM and aircraft programs for the USAF. Northrop Grumman is the largest security and defense company in Utah with more than 5,100 employees across the state, Northern Utah is the headquarters for the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD) program.
Boeing	1000–1999	Boeing in Utah fabricates large composite structures including horizontal stabilizers, vertical fins for the 787-9 Dreamliner, and components for other commercial and military aircraft used internationally.
Hexcel	1000–1999	Hexcel Utah manufactures carbon fiber and hot melt prepregs with both woven and unidirectional reinforcements, with applications in commercial aerospace structures and military programs.
BAE Systems	500–999	BAE Systems is an integrated support contractor at HAFB, providing system engineering and technical assistance and training to the Air Force in sustainment of the Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile and development of the Sentinel ICBM weapon system.
Barnes Aerospace	100-249	Barnes Aerospace's Ogden division is an industry leader in complex fabrications, specializing in concurrent engineering development and new product introductions.
Parker Hannifin	500–999	Parker Hannifin in Utah designs and manufactures components such as thermoplastics elastomers for dynamic applications, as well as complex flight control components for commercial and military aircraft.
Williams International	500–999	Williams International in Ogden is the most modern and efficient small gas turbine engine design-to-production facility in the world.
Curtiss-Wright	250–499	Curtiss-Wright specializes in rugged embedded computing and communication subsystems for size, weight, and power-cost constrained military, aerospace, and homeland defense applications.
JBT Aerotech	250–499	JBT Aerotech is a global leader in the design and manufacture of cutting-edge ground support equipment including loaders, deicers, and tow tractors.
Kihomac	250–499	Kihomac provides complete life cycle support for the A-10 Thunderbolt II through contracts with System Program Office (SPO) at Hill Air Force Base.
Petersen	250–499	Petersen provides design engineering, precision machining, and fabrication of tooling and components for advanced aerospace and defense systems.
TTM Technologies	250–499	TTM Technologies manufactures HDI Printed Circuit Boards which are characterized by high-density attributes including laser microvias, fine lines, and high-performance thin materials.
ACT Aerospace	100–249	ACT Aerospace provides consultation and manufacturing for advanced materials such as autoclave cured composite structures.
Janicki Industries	100–249	Janicki Industries designs and manufactures high precision parts and tooling for aerospace, marine, energy, space, military, transportation, and architecture customers.
Lockheed Martin	100–249	Lockheed Martin provides logistics, support, maintenance, and distribution for the nation's premier fighter aircraft, including the F-35 Lightning II, F-22 Raptor, F-16 Fighting Falcon, and A-10 Thunderbolt.
Borsight	50–99	Borsight is a systems engineering, integration, and manufacturing services provider. They have expertise in mission functionality as well as human factors analysis.
Mission Support	20–49	Mission Support is a certified manufacturer and overhaul and repair facility providing depot-level overhaul services to US Air Force Material Command, Army Aviation, the FAA, and Naval Aviation.

3. Utah Department of Workforce Services

Map of Northern Utah



NORTHERN UTAH ASSETS

INSTITUTIONS & HIGHER EDUCATION

1. Weber State University, Ogden
2. Ogden-Weber Technical College, Ogden
3. Davis Technical College, Kaysville
4. University of Utah, Salt Lake City

1. Hill Air Force Base
2. Falcon Hill Aerospace Research Park
3. Northrop Grumman Sentinel HQ
4. Parker Hannifin Corporation
5. Kihomac

1. Union Station
2. Snowbasin Resort
3. Powder Mountain Resort
4. Pineview Resevior

Air

1. Ogden-Hinckley Airport
2. Salt Lake City International

Rail

- FrontRunner Train long distance commuter
- Trax Train local/airport
- Freight Rail
- Highway/Interstate

Road

- 15 Interstate 15
- 84 Interstate 84
- 80 Interstate 80
- 89 Highway 89

NORTHERN UTAH ECONOMIC ALLIANCE

Hill Air Force Base (HAFB)

HAFB HISTORY

Hill Field was activated on November 7, 1940, when Lieutenant Colonel Morris Berman arrived for duty as the first commanding officer. The base was named after Major Ployer P. Hill, a test pilot who was killed in a crash of the prototype of the B-17 in 1935 at Wright Field, Ohio. Strategically located close to transportation lines, the base was operated by Ogden Air Depot as a maintenance and supply depot.

Aircraft maintenance and depot supply began in mid-1941 and the overhaul of B-17s in April 1942. In February 1943, a B-24 assembly line was opened. During the Korean War, the base overhauled B-29 and B-26 bombers. Jet fighter maintenance began in 1953 with the F-89 and F-84; and in 1957 with the F-102 and F-101. Maintenance of the F-4 began in 1965 and the F-16 in 1979, while the C-130 and OV-10 were assigned to the base in 1988. Since 2013 The Ogden Air Logistics Complex at HAFB has conducted maintenance on the F-35 from both the U.S. military and its allies.

The Ogden Arsenal was transferred to HAFB on April 1, 1955, and Ogden was immediately assigned responsibility for Explosives Ordinance Disposal (EOD) and for most Air Force air munitions. A facility to test air munitions was completed in 1964 at the HAFB Bombing and Gunnery Range in the desert west of the Great Salt Lake. The facility was later renamed the Utah Test and Training Range, and operation was transferred to the Air Force Systems Command in 1979; however, HAFB still manages range property.

Since WWII, a 13,500-foot runway was completed in 1957, and maintenance supply and administration buildings have improved base capabilities.[3]

HAFB TODAY

Hill Air Force Base is the largest military installation in Utah and was the state's sixth largest employer over the last 5 years. The Hill Air Force Base Economic Impact Statement for 2023 provides the following information about HAFB economic impact in the surrounding community.

3. Hill Air Force Base



The F-35 Lightning II aircraft assigned to Hill Air Force Base.







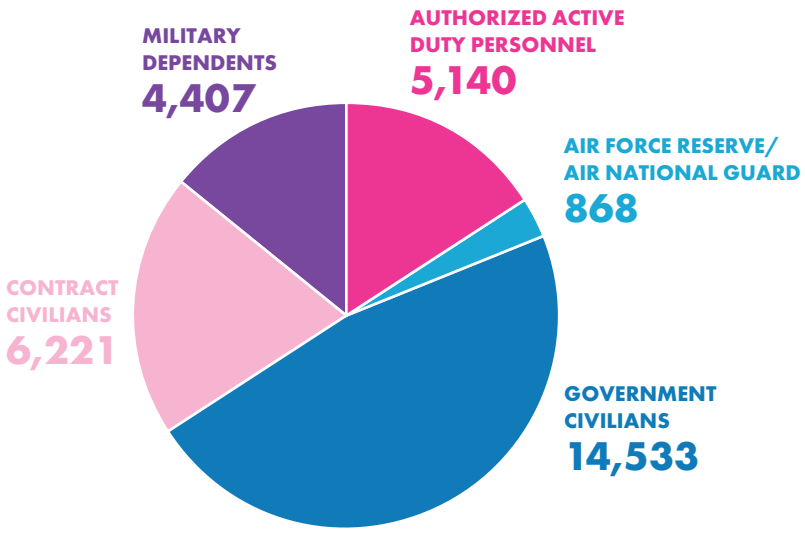
HAFB ECONOMIC IMPACT 2023

The Hill AFB Economic Impact Statement provides information about the economic impact of Hill Air Force Base on the surrounding community.

An installation's economic impact on the local community is calculated by identifiable off-base local area spending from gross expenditures. All financial figures are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Summary of Personnel

TOTAL: 31,169



Estimated Jobs Created

TOTAL: 65,524

ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACT ESTIMATE

Annual Government Payroll	$1,596,519,946
Annual Expenditures	$3,755,604,463
Estimated Indirect Economic Impact	$5,682,706,097
GRAND TOTAL:	**$11,034,830,506**

Hill Air Force Base Economic Impact Statement 2023

The following Aerospace and Defense organizations are part of HAFB operations:

75th Air Base Wing (ABW): Oversees 1 million acres and more than 1,700 facilities valued at $4 billion, while providing installation support for the Ogden Air Logistics Complex, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center, Air Force active duty 388th and Reserve 419th Fighter Wings. ABW has more than 50 mission partners employing more than 21,000 personnel.

Ogden Air Logistics Complex: Provides war-winning expeditionary capabilities to the warfighter through world-class logistics, support, maintenance, distribution, and engineering management for actively flying mature and proven weapon systems. It is one of three complexes assigned to the Air Force Sustainment Center.

Air Force Life Cycle Management Center: Serves as a forward operating location for total life cycle management of multiple weapon systems and support services. Each program provides worldwide, cradle-to-grave logistics and program management in coordination with major commands, Air Force Material Command depots, supply sources, repair centers and users to sustain mission effectiveness throughout the system's life cycle.

Utah Test and Training Range (UTTR): A Department of Defense (DoD) Major Range and Test Facility Base that provides an ideal location for operational test and evaluation for weapons requiring a large safety footprint. UTTR is also the only location capable of supporting overland testing of cruise missiles. The facility is used in a training capacity for air-to-air combat, air-to-ground inert and live practice bombing and gunnery training by DoD aircrews.

UTTR provides a vast area of realistic terrain for world-class test and training scenarios to ensure the warfighter is prepared to deploy at a moment's notice to win any conflict with decisive air and space power.



Ogden-Hinkley Airport

The Ogden-Hinckley Airport covers approximately 720 acres and has operated as a municipal airport since 1928. The airport was certified as a training facility for World War II cadets in 1940. Today, it primarily serves as a general aviation airport with approximately 300 general aviation planes based in its 250 hangars.

The airport serves private and business general aviation services, commercial air service, and air ambulance service. Ogden-Hinkley Airport is a vital component of the Aerospace and Defense industry-strategy in the State of Utah.

OGDEN-HINKLEY AIRPORT'S HISTORY

Robert H. Hinckley, its founder, and his family moved to Ogden in 1927 for a better economic life. Shortly after placing roots in North Ogden, Hinckley purchased Hinckley Dodge and co-founded Utah Pacific Airways, which served as an airplane dealer, charter, and school. Utah Pacific Airways became the largest fixed base operator in the western region.

Hinckley was a visionary and worked tirelessly to bring Utahns relief during the Great Depression. He worked with President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the New Deal and managed projects in the western region. Hinckley used the Works Project Administration labor to build airports.

MAJOR EMPLOYERS

The airport offers commercial flights, general aviation service, and aerospace engineering. Ogden-Hinckley Airport hosts operations for several aerospace and defense companies, including Borsight, and Williams International. Existing hangars and build-to-suit options at the Kemp Ogden Gateway Center at the south of the airport make Ogden-Hinckley Airport an ideal location for aviation and aerospace companies.[4]

Borsight, who has large long-term contracts with the United States Air Force and NATO, specializes in the modernization of avionics systems in the older, legacy aircraft of the Department of Defense. In 2018, Ogden City announced Borsight would expand its operations at the airport with new office and shop space that includes a hangar sized for large aircraft like KC-135 aerial refueling aircraft and commercial Boeing 737s. The $6.3 million capital investment could add 95 new jobs to the area over the seven-year expansion period.

Williams International is a world leader in the development, manufacturing, and support of small gas turbine engines. The company also provides research and development services for the U.S. defense industry and aftermarket services to its commercial and defense customers. In 2020, the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity announced that Williams International was expanding its operations in Ogden, creating approximately 300 new high-paying jobs over seven years. The Williams facility in Ogden is the most modern and efficient gas turbine design-to-production facility in the world.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND GROWTH

The Ogden-Hinckley Airport provides a $328.1 million economic benefit to the Northern Utah region, supporting 2,626 direct and indirect jobs with annual payroll of $118.6 million and annual spending of $209.5 million. The airport has seen a significant rise in the sale of aviation fuel over the last decade, increasing the flowage to almost 1 million gallons per year from about 400,000 gallons in 2010. FAA-measured operations have increased in the last three years with a 17% growth last year. In 2023, the Ogden City Council and Ogden Redevelopment agency approved the creation of an Airport Community Reinvestment Area to develop the 837 acres of airport property, which encompasses private and public land. The creation of the reinvestment area will allow the leaders to tap into as much as $119.32 million in tax-increment finance over 25 years to aid with development.

Projected growth:

- $4 million in runway and taxiway upgrades
- 10-year master plan
- Wildlife hazard management project

4. Ogden City, Utah

Education & Training in Aerospace & Defense

AEROSPACE & DEFENSE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Weber State University (WSU): Located in Ogden, Weber State University is renowned for its strong focus on practical education and career preparation, particularly in fields like engineering, manufacturing, and technology.

One of its standout initiatives is its Aerospace & Defense Program, which is part of the university's focus on meeting the needs of Utah's aerospace and defense industries. With close proximity to Hill Air Force Base, one of the largest employers in the region, Weber State has tailored its curriculum and programs to address the workforce demands of this sector. The university offers degree programs in areas like mechanical engineering, manufacturing engineering, and computer science that directly support aerospace and defense innovations.

Weber State's partnerships with industry leaders, such as Lockheed Martin, Boeing, and Northrop Grumman, are central to the success of the program. These collaborations provide students with internship opportunities, hands-on learning experiences, and access to cutting-edge technology. The Aerospace & Defense Program emphasizes skills in advanced composites, additive manufacturing, and automation, equipping graduates with the technical expertise to excel in the fast-evolving aerospace industry. Additionally, the program plays a crucial role in supporting national defense initiatives, preparing students to contribute to projects that enhance the U.S. military's technological capabilities.

Overall, Weber State's Aerospace & Defense Program is a vital pipeline for skilled professionals entering a critical and high-tech field, benefitting both the regional economy and national security interests. Its commitment to applied learning ensures that graduates are not only technically proficient but also industry-ready upon completion of their degrees.

Utah is also home to multiple Technical Colleges where students receive certifications in a wide range of Aerospace and Defense subjects. Many of the credits articulate into higher education degrees. The mission for the Utah System of Higher Education is "To meet business and industry needs for technically-skilled workers and promote economic development by providing market-driven technical education to secondary and adult students." [5]

Davis Technical College: Davis Technical College in Kaysville, Utah, plays a crucial role in supporting the state's aerospace and defense industries through specialized technical training. The college offers industry-aligned programs in Advanced Manufacturing, Composites Materials Technology, and CNC Machining, preparing students for careers in aerospace production and defense systems manufacturing.

With strong partnerships with companies like Northrop Grumman, Boeing, and L3Harris, Davis Tech ensures that its curriculum meets industry needs. The college's state-of-the-art facilities, including the Machining Technology Center and Composites Lab, provide students hands-on experience with the latest technology, helping to fill the workforce demands of Utah's rapidly growing aerospace and defense sectors.

Ogden-Weber Technical College: Ogden-Weber Technical College (OWTC) in Ogden, Utah, is a key player in preparing the workforce for the aerospace and defense industries. Offering specialized training in fields such as CNC Machining, Composites Materials Technology, and Welding, OWTC equips students with the skills needed for high-tech manufacturing roles.

The college works closely with aerospace and defense companies like Northrop Grumman, Boeing, and Autoliv to ensure its programs align with industry needs. Students train in modern facilities, including advanced machining labs, gaining practical, hands-on experience. OWTC is essential in providing Utah's aerospace and defense sectors with a steady pipeline of skilled workers, driving economic growth in the region.

MARS Center: The Miller Advanced Research and Solutions (MARS) Center at Weber State University is a cutting-edge facility dedicated to advancing aerospace and national defense technologies. Strategically located at the Falcon Hill Aerospace Research Park in Clearfield, Utah, the center plays a vital role in addressing the needs of the

defense and aerospace industries. With a focus on the advanced manufacturing of high-temperature composites used in aircraft, missiles, and rockets, MARS is at the forefront of innovation, working to solve complex real-world challenges.

Opened in August 2022, the MARS Center was made possible by a generous donation from the Larry H. & Gail Miller Family Foundation. The facility is equipped with state-of-the-art technology, enabling researchers to test materials under extreme conditions of temperature and speed. The MARS Center collaborates with a range of industry and government partners to advance research in aerospace and national defense. This collaboration aims to not only advance research but also to develop a highly skilled workforce and transfer breakthrough technologies to the broader aerospace and defense sectors.

University of Utah (U of U): A diverse number of options for students are available at the U of U. They include degrees in: Biomedical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Materials Science & Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, School of Computing, Computer Engineering, and Nuclear Engineering.

Utah State University (USU): Aerospace engineers develop new technologies in the field of aviation, space exploration, and defense systems. They specialize in the fields of design, development, testing, and maintenance of both commercial and military aircraft, spacecrafts and their components, as well as satellites and missiles. USU researchers and students have put more experiments into flight on shuttle and satellite missions than any other institution in the country. Other prominent opportunities available at USU include the College of Engineering's Rocky Mountain NASA Space Grant Consortium and the Center for Space Engineering. In the College of Science, researchers at the Center for Atmospheric and Space Sciences are developing instruments and data analysis tools for rockets, satellites, and space shuttles.

Utah Valley University (UVU): Multiple degrees in Aerospace and Defense are offered at Utah Valley University. Aviation Science prepares students for successful careers in aviation. Mechatronics Engineering Technology prepares students to work as automation technicians or designers in the manufacturing sector along the Wasatch Front.

Utah Aerospace Pathways: Utah Pathways is an education-to-career initiative that connects students with high-demand industries, such as aerospace, defense, healthcare, and IT. By aligning high school, technical college, and university curriculums with industry needs, the program provides students with career-focused education, certifications, and real-world experience. Students can earn credentials, technical training, and college credits while still in high school, ensuring they are job-ready or well-prepared for higher education.

The initiative partners with key employers in Utah to ensure training is relevant and leads directly to employment opportunities. It also promotes seamless transitions from education to the workforce through internships, apprenticeships, and mentorships. Utah Pathways plays a crucial role in addressing workforce shortages in the state, helping students build the skills necessary to enter growing industries and drive economic growth.

The Utah Aerospace Education Foundation (UAEF): Operates with a mission of educating the public on national defense, aerospace and Air Force issues while advocating for aerospace and STEM education. UAEF awards grants to industry-related education programs, community STEM events, STEM programs in schools, and funds ROTC scholarships.

Future Opportunities in the Aerospace & Defense Sector

NORTHROP GRUMMAN EXPANDS (AGAIN) IN NORTHERN UTAH

Northrop Grumman has a significant presence in northern Utah, where it is a key player in the aerospace and defense sectors. With facilities in Roy, Clearfield, and Promontory, the company supports a range of projects including missile defense systems, aerospace structures, and rocket propulsion technologies. Its Roy site is crucial to the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD) program, which modernizes the U.S. intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) system.

The Clearfield facility focuses on manufacturing composite materials for aircraft like the F-35 Lightning II, while Promontory specializes in rocket motors used in both military applications and NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) for space exploration.

The GBSD program, one of Northrop Grumman's most important initiatives in Utah, is expected to bolster the region's economy by creating thousands of high-paying jobs. This program, which will replace the aging Minuteman III missile system, is central to maintaining the U.S.'s nuclear deterrence capabilities. Northrop Grumman's role in the project ensures its long-term presence in Utah, with the Roy facility at the heart of engineering, testing, and management operations.

In addition to its defense work, Northrop Grumman's Promontory site continues to play a key role in space exploration. The site has a legacy of producing solid rocket boosters, from the Space Shuttle era to today's SLS program. The SLS is essential for NASA's Artemis program, which aims to return humans to the moon. Promontory's involvement in these high-profile projects reflects Northrop Grumman's importance in both military and civilian aerospace sectors.

Northrop Grumman's presence has a profound economic impact on northern Utah, providing thousands of jobs and fostering technological innovation. The company also collaborates with Hill Air Force Base, contributing to aircraft maintenance and missile system upgrades, which are vital to U.S. national security. Through partnerships with local educational institutions, Northrop Grumman helps prepare Utah's future workforce, ensuring continued growth and success in the aerospace and defense industries.

FALCON HILL AEROSPACE RESEARCH PARK DEVELOPMENT

The Falcon Hill Aerospace Research Park is the largest Enhanced Use Lease (EUL) in the Air Force and one of the largest commercial EULs in the Department of Defense.

The research park consists of 550 acres along Hill AFB's west side and 1.3 million square feet of commercial space. Its proximity to Hill Air Force Base allows seamless cooperation between military and private entities. The primary mission of the park is to advance aerospace research, defense technology, and logistics innovations while supporting the U.S. Department of Defense's national security objectives.

The research park offers state-of-the-art facilities that are customizable for a wide range of industries, including aerospace, defense, cybersecurity, and engineering. The campus includes office spaces, research labs, manufacturing facilities, and logistics hubs. Modern infrastructure supports cutting-edge research and high-tech industrial operations. It is built to accommodate businesses of all sizes, from large defense contractors like Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman to smaller, specialized firms.

Falcon Hill is an economic driver in northern Utah, providing thousands of high-paying jobs in technology, research, and manufacturing. The development has attracted a diverse set of businesses, contributing to the growth of Utah's aerospace and defense sectors. The park's long-term vision includes continued expansion, with the potential to become one of the nation's leading hubs for defense innovation.

One of the unique aspects of Falcon Hill is its public-private partnership structure. The project is managed through a collaboration between the U.S. Air Force and private developers, with a focus on creating mutually beneficial outcomes for both military needs and commercial growth. This model allows private companies to lease land and facilities on the base while contributing to the Air Force's mission, ensuring a steady pipeline of innovation and development for both sectors. The park aims to maintain its leadership in aerospace innovation, offering a collaborative environment where military, government, and private industry can work together to solve the defense and technological challenges of the future.

EXPANSION OF HAFB BY 2025

Hill Air Force Base projects future growth. Its Ogden Air Logistics Complex performs programmed depot maintenance on a number of US Air Force weapon systems. Meanwhile, the 309th Software Engineering Group (309 SMXG) focuses on cradle-to-grave system support, software and hardware engineering, program management and data management. The Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) expanded into HAFB in 2018. The organization offers IT services, capabilities, and acquisition expertise that enable our nation's military to accomplish their missions. These organizations, collectively, are projected to grow over 1,200 positions in the next few years. By 2025, Hill AFB will have expanded its capacity to support both current operations and future defense initiatives, reinforcing its position as one of the most important air bases in the U.S.

Why Aerospace & Defense Industries Thrive in Northern Utah

Utah has consistently won "Best State for Business" rankings from Forbes, CNBC, 24/7 Wall Street and other organizations. Why is Northern Utah leading the way as the place for Aerospace and Defense private sectors and government organizations? Consider these reasons to relocate or expand Aerospace and Defense or composites business:

HILL AIR FORCE BASE (HAFB)

With an 2023 Economic Impact of over $11 billion, companies thrive near Hill Air Force Base due to the economic and strategic opportunities Hill Air Force Base provides. As one of the largest Air Force bases in the U.S., Hill AFB is a major hub for aircraft maintenance, repair, and overhaul, particularly for fighter jets like the F-35 and F-22, as well as missile and defense systems. This creates a high demand for contractors and suppliers in aerospace, defense, and logistics industries.

Additionally, businesses benefit from consistent access to federal contracts and procurement opportunities, making the area attractive for companies specializing in technology, engineering, manufacturing, and defense services. Hill AFB also fosters a local workforce skilled in aerospace and defense, and its strong partnerships with regional educational institutions like Weber State University, Davis Technical College and Ogden-Weber Technical College, who help provide a pipeline of talent. The base anchors a robust supply chain network, attracting businesses to the area, while Utah's business-friendly environment and infrastructure support further growth and investment.

TAX CLIMATE

Utah ranks #10 by the Tax Foundation. The ranking is designed to show how well states structure their tax systems. The state's flat income tax rate of 4.95% puts it at #8 nationally.

MEDIAN AGE OF UTAH'S WORKFORCE

Utah's median age is 31.2 years, which makes it the youngest state in the country. Training programs in Utah, such as the Utah Aerospace Pathways program, graduate high school students with skills and certificates that make them ready for careers in specific, high-demand industries – including northern Utah's growing Aerospace and Defense industry.

EDUCATED WORKFORCE

Utah ranks #14 nationally for people living here who are 25 years or older and have a bachelor's degree or graduate degree. Utah ranks #12 nationally in high school graduation rates. The state has 12 higher education and technical institutions offering specialized programs in aerospace and advanced materials manufacturing.

LABOR COSTS

Utah' s affordable labor costs, and highly educated and talented workforce ranks the state as one of the best places to find qualified workers in the western region.

OPERATING COSTS

Utah ranks #2 among western states for overall operating costs. This ranking includes real estate costs, electricity, natural gas, construction, and other costs.

ABUNDANT WORKFORCE

More than 40,000 employees work in aerospace and defense and composites-related fields, making Utah one of the strongest states in employee concentrations of aerospace engineers, materials scientists, machine operators and other aerospace related occupations.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Utah has the lowest workers' compensation costs in the nation, with an index rate of $0.85. The precise amount an employer pays for workers' compensation insurance depends on the level of risk associated with the company's operations.

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Often called "The Crossroads of the West," Utah has a considerable and convenient rail, highway, and air infrastructure. Located approximately 30 minutes south of Ogden, the Salt Lake City International Airport (SLC) averages 300 daily, non-stop commercial departures to 90 cities.

6. Business Facilities Magazine, "12 Reasons to Bring Your Company to Utah", July 2017

The airport served 26,952,754 passengers in 2023 and has one of the strongest on-time performance records. SLC recently completed a major $4 billion redevelopment program. Also of note, the Utah Inland Port, under development, will be a dry port in the northwest quadrant of Salt Lake City. When completed it will cover more than 16,000 acres.

TESTING AND TRAINING RESOURCES

Utah is home to the Utah Testing & Training Range (UTTR), the Utah Unmanned Aerial Systems Training Center (UASUtah), and the Rapid Integration and Testing Center. The UTTR is the largest overland contiguous block of supersonic authorized restricted airspace in the lower 48 states. UASUtah provides a testing and training ground for both public and private UAS operations. The Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project office operates its Rapid Integration and Acceptance Center (RIAC) at the U.S. Army's Dugway Proving Ground. The center is open to military agencies in need of testing UAS technologies. [6]

IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORY

Just beyond the northern Utah border into eastern Idaho is 890 square miles of area where, in 1951, the world's first electricity was produced from nuclear energy. The Idaho National Laboratory (INL) is the nation's top nuclear research facility for the U.S. Department of Energy, employing thousands of people immersed in research that touches all corners of our lives, including aerospace engineering.

The Idaho National Laboratory is intertwined with multiple Utah projects, from helping keep cellphones functional for first responders in a catastrophic emergency to testing the functionality of batteries in electric vehicles.

The Idaho National Laboratory is a partner in Rocky Mountain Power's WestSmart Electric Vehicle corridor project, which aims to make available charging stations on major transportation corridors in the West.

The Idaho Laboratory is an energy department facility that includes a sophisticated electric vehicle battery laboratory, where employees carry out research. Researchers bake EV batteries, freeze them or subject them to other elements to determine how varying conditions affect the length of a charge. The laboratory is analyzing data gathered from Utah charging stations, some of which are along the I-15 electric vehicle corridor.

FORGE

The Frontier Observatory for Research in Geothermal Engineering, is another U.S. Department of Energy project that may someday mean Utah residents – indeed all Americans – have easier, cheaper access to the earth's renewable thermal energy. Researchers from around the world, including the Idaho National Laboratory, join the University of Utah in the $130 million project to test new technology in Utah's high plains desert. The Idaho National Laboratory assisted the university in a preliminary site analysis in the project that is now in its second phase of development. Utah already has 73 megawatts of installed geothermal capacity with a trio of producing plants, with the capability of generating 1,300 megawatts of energy.





47G

47G Utah Aerospace and Defense is a leading economic development organization dedicated to establishing Utah as the premier ecosystem for aerospace and defense companies in the United States. With a focus on fostering talent, funding innovation, and fueling entrepreneurship, 47G brings together key stakeholders from academic institutions, government entities, service providers, and community partners to drive the growth of Utah's aerospace and defense sector. Positioned in America's deep tech frontier, 47G acts as a hub that connects industry leaders with the resources and networks needed to shape the future of aerospace and defense technology.

The organization's efforts are driven by three core initiatives: driving funding to Utah industry through the 47G Institute, building the epicenter of Advanced Air Mobility through Project Alta, and accelerating the manufacturing competitiveness through the Impact Center.

The 47G Institute aims to secure funding for Utah's aerospace industry, ensuring that new ideas and ventures receive the necessary support. Project Alta seeks to build Utah into the epicenter of Advanced Air Mobility, positioning the state at the forefront of aviation innovation. The Impact Center accelerates the competitiveness of the state's manufacturing sector, enhancing productivity and positioning Utah as a leader in advanced defense technologies.

Through its advocacy, promotion, and convening of diverse stakeholders, 47G amplifies the voice of Utah's aerospace industry on a national and global stage. With nearly 200 partnerships spanning industry, academia, and government, 47G offers a powerful platform for collaboration, ensuring that Utah remains a magnet for aerospace and defense innovation.

Photo: 47G

Resources

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Northern Utah Economic Alliance (NUEA)

NUEA is a joint venture of Davis and Weber Counties, the two-most populated counties in northern Utah. NUEA is dedicated to quality job growth and increased capital investment in northern Utah.

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