

AVIATION, AEROSPACE, & DEFENSE

In 2004, Gov. Rick Perry announced a long-term, strategic job creation plan that focused state efforts in six industry clusters, one of which was aerospace and defense. Each cluster was selected because of its powerful potential for future economic growth.

As a former Air Force pilot, Gov. Perry understands the importance of aerospace and aviation. Gov. Perry piloted a C-130 Hercules tactical airlift aircraft in the United States, Europe, and the Middle East during his military service in the 1970s. Gov. Perry showcases his commitment to the industry through the Office of Aerospace, Aviation and Defense, within the Economic Development and Tourism (EDT) division of the Office of the Governor. This office works closely with decision makers in the aerospace industry, other governmental agencies, and academic institutions to coordinate business development efforts.

CIVIL AVIATION

Texas has 27 airports with commercial operations in 23 major cities. Of these airports, Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport and Houston Intercontinental each serve more than 20 million passengers per year, while four additional airports serve more than 1 million passengers per year. Both Southwest Airlines and American Airlines have headquarters located in Texas.

GOVERNMENT AVIATION & DEFENSE

From aerospace research and flight training, to military aircraft development and space exploration, Texas is an epicenter of government-related aviation. NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston and the 15 active military bases around the state are a testament to Texas' importance to the country's aerospace and defense initiatives. The history of military aviation began in Texas in 1910, when the first ever military flights took place at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio. Today, Texas is home to almost 246,000 active duty personnel, reservists, National Guard personnel, and Department of Defense (DoD) civilian workers, as well as thousands of men and women working in defense-related businesses. In fiscal year 2010, DoD contract expenditures in Texas totaled more than \$30.8 billion, or 5.9 percent of all DoD contract spending nationwide.

SPACE

For the past 50 years, NASA's Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center (JSC) in Houston has led the United States and the world through leaps in human discovery. The JSC was established in 1961 as the Manned Spaceflight Center and the home of Mission Control Center for the U.S. human space flight program.

The Johnson Space Center has always had partners in industry, academia, and other governmental and international agencies, and a long history of technology transfer. Today, the center is opening its unique facilities, seeking to expand and develop new partnering and shared business activities that will benefit the state of Texas.

NASA has produced a long list of technological spinoffs, including improvements in automotive brakes, advanced welding methods, breast cancer detection, NASCAR design, athletic shoes, and swimwear. Through such private-sector collaborations, NASA's influence has permeated society.

For more information visit TexasWideOpenForBusiness.com

