

# ECONOMIC GROWTH INITIATIVES



## *Aerospace*

- ◆ There are nine Michigan universities with departments and/or programs that are associated with the aerospace industry.
- ◆ Founded in 2007, the [Michigan Aerospace Manufacturers Association \(MAMA\)](#) is a Michigan-based association that supports manufacturers in their diversification efforts into the aerospace industry. Since its inception in 2007, MAMA has grown to 50 members and has helped secure more than \$32 million in new business from the aerospace industry.
- ◆ Lawrence Technological University's [Center for Innovative Materials Research \(CIMR\)](#) is a \$3.2 million, 7,200-square-foot nationally recognized laboratory that specializes in the development of innovative materials and focuses on finding new applications for carbon fiber composites, ceramics and polymers.
- ◆ According to *U.S. News*, the University of Michigan Engineering School is [ranked 9<sup>th</sup>](#) in the nation. Since it was established in 1914, the [Department of Aerospace Engineering](#) at the University of Michigan has been recognized as one of the leading aerospace departments in the country. Currently, the University's Aerospace Engineering program is [ranked 4<sup>th</sup>](#) in the nation (tied with Georgia Institute of Technology and Purdue University).
- ◆ Aerospace companies in Southeast Michigan have access to [six area airports](#) throughout the product development process.
- ◆ Aerospace product manufacturing is one of twenty industries forecasted to grow in the County between 2008 and 2011. Boeing conducts business with over 286 Michigan-based suppliers resulting in purchases of over \$551,900,000.
- ◆ Forty-seven percent of Oakland County's electrical equipment, appliance, and component manufacturing firms are in the relay and industrial controls industry. In addition, 16% of the firms produce switchgears/switchboards or current-carrying wiring devices.
- ◆ Between 2000 and 2007, aerospace companies in Oakland County secured a total of 569 government contracts worth almost \$45 million. The number of government contracts awarded to aerospace companies in Oakland County grew 250 percent over this two year period.
- ◆ History has proven that Michigan's workforce can successfully apply automotive manufacturing skills to the aerospace industry. The Ford Willow Run plant produced B-24 bombers throughout WWII, reaching astonishing production levels of fourteen aircraft per day. During WWII, a Lawrence Technological University alumnus developed the high wing/rear door design still used in cargo aircraft worldwide.
- ◆ Oakland County aerospace manufacturers are top industry performers. For example, Williams International of Walled Lake has been voted number one by *Professional Pilot Magazine* in after sale product support for the past 11 years.

Source: MAMA, U.S. News, [www.governmentcontractswon.com](http://www.governmentcontractswon.com), U.S. Census, Oakland Press, U.S. Centennial of Flight Commission, Lawrence Tech, Williams International, U of M, U of M Institute for Research on Labor, Employment and the Economy, Professional Pilot Magazine, Boeing  
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