



# FLORIDA'S AVIATION & AEROSPACE COMPANIES ARE TAKING OFF

As the birthplace of commercial aviation with 130 public-use airports and 21 commercial airports, Florida is the ideal hub for transporting people and goods across the world.

As the undisputed air traffic hub of the Americas, the Sunshine State is home to major flight training centers and maintenance repair and operations (MRO) facilities, as well as a thriving aircraft manufacturing industry. Additionally, Florida boasts a highly skilled workforce and robust supply chain that supports a wide range of industries, including engineering, robotics, surveillance, and technology.



**LEARN MORE:**  
[SelectFlorida.org](http://SelectFlorida.org)

**SELECTFLORIDA**

Thanks to world-renowned facilities like the Kennedy Space Center, Cecil Spaceport, and Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida's aviation and aerospace industry is at the forefront of space exploration and home to some of the most advanced technology and infrastructure in the world.

Florida ranks

**#1 IN THE U.S.**

for attracting and developing talent.

*Lightcast Talent Attraction Scorecard.*

Florida ranks

**2<sup>ND</sup> IN THE U.S.**

for the largest aerospace cluster

*with 700+ establishments as of 2023.*

Florida ranks

**5<sup>TH</sup> IN THE U.S.**

for the best aerospace engineering degree programs

*with a doctoral option at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University*

## ACHIEVE NEW HEIGHTS WITH THESE PROGRAMS & TOOLS FOR FLORIDA'S AVIATION & AEROSPACE INDUSTRY

### TAX EXEMPTIONS

The **Space Flight Activities Tax Exemption** is for the sale, lease, use, storage, consumption, or distribution of any orbital space facility, space propulsion system, space vehicle, satellite or station that possesses space flight capacity and the tangible personal property on-or-used aboard. Exemptions are also available for properties that are used or occupied predominantly for space flight business purposes, space launch vehicle fuels, space laboratories and carriers and direct and overhead materials.

The **Aircraft Repair and Maintenance Sales Tax Exemption** applies to labor, parts and equipment related to the repair and maintenance of qualified aircraft. A Fixed Wing Aircraft Sales Tax Exemption is applicable to the sale or lease of an eligible aircraft. To qualify, the aircraft must have a maximum certified takeoff weight exceeding 15,000 pounds and be utilized by a "common carrier," as defined in the regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration.

The **Semiconductor, Defense and Space Technology Tax Exemption** supports technology-based companies as they continue to invest in critical advanced technology machinery and equipment. Businesses involved in semiconductor, defense and space technology production are eligible to apply for a sales and use tax exemption permit for the purchase of machinery and equipment that is valid for two years.

The **Manufacturing Machinery and Equipment Sales Tax Exemption** is available to all businesses that conduct their primary operations in specific industry classifications, utilizing industrial machinery and equipment to manufacture, process, compound or create tangible personal property.

### TAX CREDIT

The **Capital Investment Tax Credit** is for capital-intensive industries operating in a designated high-impact portion of the following sectors in Florida: advanced manufacturing, clean energy, financial services, life sciences, information technology, transportation, semiconductors or a corporate headquarters facility. Annual credit against the corporate income or premium tax liability is provided for up to 20 years. Businesses must make a cumulative investment of at least \$25 million and create a minimum of 100 new full-time jobs to receive this credit.

**Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program** – This program provides employers with the opportunity to earn a federal tax credit between \$2,400 and \$9,600 per employee when they hire a new employee who is a qualifying member of one of the defined target groups.



## GRANT PROGRAMS AND INCENTIVES

The **Florida Job Growth Grant Fund** awards grants to support local public infrastructure and workforce training proposals that promote economic opportunities across the state.

**High Impact Performance Incentive** is a program that awards grants to spur capital investment and job creation. These grants are reserved for major facilities operating in designated high-impact sectors.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Quick Response Training** is a state-funded grant program that provides funding for customized training to support both new and expanding businesses within Florida's targeted industries.

The **Incumbent Worker Training Program** provides grant funding to established Florida businesses to avert layoffs and/or retain a skilled workforce through continuing education and training for employees to obtain the skill necessary to retain employment.

## FLORIDA AEROSPACE AND DEFENSE (FAD) PORTAL

The FAD Portal connects Florida's defense companies, local governments and corporations and provides opportunities for organizations to review defense contract and grant opportunities located in Florida; find and connect with Florida defense manufacturers, vendors and suppliers; and discover additional resources including manufacturing, cybersecurity training, export assistance, workforce assistance and resources to help them apply for, win, and manage contracts.

## SMALL BUSINESS VENTURE CAPITAL

The **Florida Opportunity Fund** was established to achieve substantial long-term capital appreciation by identifying and investing in a diversified portfolio of high-quality seed and early-stage venture capital funds. These funds specifically seek investment opportunities within the state of Florida.

## SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

**Space Florida** is an independent special district created to foster the growth and development of a sustainable and world-leading aerospace industry in Florida. Space Florida promotes aerospace business development by facilitating business financing, spaceport operations, research and development, workforce development and innovative education programs.

