Home to one of the five great aerospace clusters in the world, Kansas is a leader in aircraft design and manufacturing of general aviation aircraft, as well as major structures for commercial aircraft. Kansas is centrally located in the heart of North America, offering excellent transportation and marketing advantages for businesses.

Over 67 percent of the world’s embedded general aviation fleet was manufactured in Kansas, where over a quarter million aircraft have been produced since 1919.

Based in the city of Wichita, Cessna, Beechcraft and Bombardier Learjet manufacture and assemble aircraft and aviation products. Together, these three Kansas-based general aviation manufacturers delivered 43 percent of U.S.-manufactured general aviation aircraft shipped in 2013, delivering a total of 690 aircraft.

Spirit AeroSystems, the world’s largest independent producer of commercial aerostructures, recently celebrated completion of the 5,000th Boeing Next Generation 737 fuselage at its Wichita production facilities. Every Boeing commercial aircraft in production today has structures that were manufactured in Kansas.

Airbus has its largest engineering center outside of Europe in Wichita, and leading avionics suppliers Honeywell and Garmin each have over 1,000 employees at their facilities in the Kansas City metro area.

Over 32,000 people are employed in aerospace in Kansas, with highly skilled workers at Cessna, Learjet, Beechcraft, Airbus, Spirit AeroSystems, and over 350 aviation suppliers and service providers.

Wichita State University is home to the National Institute for Aviation Research (NIAR). NIAR is a major research site with extensive facilities, qualified staff and expertise in large aerospace structures and composites.

The National Center for Aviation Training (NCAT) is a world-class aviation manufacturing training center on the grounds of Jabara Airport in northeast Wichita.

Kansas State University’s College of Technology and Aviation offers both associate and bachelor’s degrees in aviation maintenance and professional pilot, and an associate degree in avionics. The University of Kansas offers both undergraduate and graduate programs in Aerospace Engineering.

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KANSAS AVIATION COMPANIES

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