



## ***Oklahoma Aerospace Summit & Expo***

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### **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **2008 Aerospace Summit & Expo to Focus on one of the State's Economic Pillars – the Aerospace Industry**

**OKLAHOMA CITY** – Without question, the aerospace industry is one of the four pillars of Oklahoma's economy, along with energy, agriculture and healthcare/biomedicine. It generates a \$12.5 billion industrial output and provides a payroll of \$5 billion annually. It's no wonder then that industry and government officials are touting this year's Oklahoma Aerospace Summit & Expo as one of extreme importance.

This marks the seventh year for the Summit. It runs from June 23-25 at the Cox Convention Center in downtown Oklahoma City. The three-day event brings together hundreds of industry leaders, government officials, educators and technology center officials to discuss the future of aerospace and network with their counterparts. Nearly 100 exhibitors from various aerospace-related companies will also be on site during the duration of the Summit promoting their individual businesses or organizations.

Organizers say past Summits focused mainly on the governmental side of the aerospace industry; this year, however, the commercial side will be featured as well. Also new in 2008 is the Aerospace Education and Training Day slated for Wednesday, June 25. Officials expect more than 100 teachers to attend the one-day education and training event where teachers and their industry partners will attend various breakout sessions designed to prepare them to help grow Oklahoma's future aerospace work force.

To promote the Summit's vision, "Oklahoma: The Global Aerospace Destination," several key industry officials from both the public and private sectors have been scheduled to speak throughout the event, including such notables as Fred Cleveland from American Airlines in Tulsa, Cessna CEO Jack Pelton and Lt. General Terry L. Gabreski, vice commander of Air Force Material Command. In addition, attendees will be able to participate in several panel discussions. Oklahoma Lt. Gov. Jari Askins will give the keynote address during the Education & Training Day.

To view the entire list of speakers and breakout sessions during the Summit, please visit the event's Web site at [www.okaerospacesummit.org](http://www.okaerospacesummit.org).

Oklahoma is recognized as one of seven centers in the world for the maintenance, repair and overhaul of aircraft in the world. Tinker Air Force Base, the Department of Defense's largest aircraft repair facility, is the state's largest employer, providing almost 27,000 jobs and an economic impact of \$3.4 billion.

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More than 500 aerospace companies are located in the state, including AAR Services, ARINC, Boeing and Northrop Grumman in Oklahoma City, and NORDAM, Spirit AerosSystems, and the world's largest commercial MRO aircraft facility, the American Airlines Maintenance and Engineering Center, in Tulsa.

The aerospace industry is responsible for 150,000 direct, indirect and induced jobs in Oklahoma. About one in 10 Oklahomans derive their incomes from the aerospace industry. But more importantly, the average salary of an employee in the aerospace industry is nearly \$55,000 compared to about \$30,000 for the average Oklahoman.

Serving as hosts for the 2008 Oklahoma Aerospace Summit & Expo are the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center at Tinker AFB, the Federal Aviation Administration, The State Chamber and Rose State College.

For more information about the Summit, please visit [www.okaerospacesummit.org](http://www.okaerospacesummit.org) or e-mail [info@okaerospacesummit.org](mailto:info@okaerospacesummit.org).