

AEROSPACE COMPETITIVENESS: FOR THE 737 MAX AND FUTURE



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Business, government and labor leaders throughout the state are joining together through the Washington Aerospace Partnership to make sure Washington continues to be an leader in aerospace excellence. The Partnership retained Accenture, one of the world's premier management consulting firms, to assess our state's aerospace competitive position and make recommendations on actions that can be taken to improve it.

Key Finding: Washington is uniquely positioned in the aerospace industry, but must make smart decisions to leverage these advantages today and then move toward more investments to secure its future.

What are Washington's Strengths and Weaknesses in Aerospace?

Primary strengths

- The quality and productivity of the current Washington workforce
- Efficient and effective workforce learning curve
- The location of major Boeing fabrication and facilities in Washington
- The in-state supplier network to aerospace

Primary weaknesses

- Washington is not prepared to provide quality engineers, manufacturing workers and industry relevant research at the scale needed to support long term aerospace needs
- Greater risks from reduction in workforce quality and productivity
- Higher building and staffing new manufacturing facilities costs in Washington than other states
- Uncertain labor-management contracts raises delivery risk

What are our Principles?

- Provide **higher education** opportunities for Washington residents to support the engineering, design and innovation needs of aerospace
- Increase and strengthen our skilled aerospace **manufacturing workforce**
- Maintain and expand our aerospace manufacturing base and **research facilities**
- Foster a business climate that spurs **innovation and productivity**
- Invest in our **transportation system** to ensure the efficient and reliable movement of people and goods throughout the state and nationwide
- **Collaborate** between business, labor and government to keep Washington an aerospace center of excellence



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What is it going to take to support aerospace?

Immediate Actions Needed

1. Strengthen existing aerospace certification and apprenticeship programs to accelerate the state's production of skilled manufacturing workers, with a particular focus on serving new high school graduates and military veterans
2. Increase the number of high quality engineering graduates and expand aerospace-relevant research from the University of Washington and Washington State University
3. Improve the readiness of current high school students to enter the 737 MAX workforce or aerospace training programs upon graduation by focusing on STEM learning and building on programs such as Launch Year to increase aerospace career awareness
4. Within the limits set by the World Trade Organization, strengthen the current manufacturing base by broadening existing state tax credits for investment in manufacturing and research while also making targeted improvements to the infrastructure that serves existing 737 facilities
5. Continue to promote government's role in developing relationships and facilitating the exchange of ideas and requirements between government, Boeing, its suppliers, and organized labor

Actions Needed to Sustain Long Term Aerospace Competitiveness

6. Increase student engagement and performance in math, science, and English in grades K-8 in order to secure the long-term quality of the state's aerospace workforce
7. Create within the Governor's office a robust role, led by an aerospace industry expert, to ensure the State's ongoing support for the aerospace sector and its workforce
8. Work with Washington's U.S. senatorial and congressional delegations on funding and support for education, workforce development and training, and research

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