

READY FOR TAKEOFF

Iowa offers a competitive edge for aerospace companies seeking innovation, efficiency and growth. The state's national leadership in manufacturing, renowned research institutions, high concentration of engineers and commitment to technological advancement make it an ideal hub for aerospace development. Businesses can thrive in Iowa thanks to its pro-business policies, strategic location, robust infrastructure and low operating costs.

The aviation maintenance industry alone, including repair stations, airline base and line maintenance, parts distribution and manufacturing, is an important part of the economy in Iowa with a total impact of just over \$1 billion.

COMPANIES AT WORK IN IOWA



RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Not only do Iowa's universities provide a valuable pipeline to top-tier talent, but they also offer access to state-of-the-art research centers. The state's aerospace industry benefits from the exciting advancements being made at university research facilities.

- The University of Iowa College of Engineering's Operator Performance Laboratory (OPL) is a world-renowned flight test lab that conducts research on human-in-the-loop and intelligent autonomous systems to increase efficiency, interoperability and safety.
- Iowa State University (ISU) College of Engineering's Department of Aerospace Engineering is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET.



Ascentus

ASCENTUS.AERO

The **Ascentus Aerospace Hub** offers aerospace and defense companies a unique opportunity to grow in one of the Midwest's most strategic and business-ready locations. Eastern Iowa Airport is at the center of the hub, with an adjacent Certified Site that is ready for development and offers companies a faster, more confident path to expansion. With direct airfield access, a skilled regional workforce, access to workforce training programs and access to the Cedar Rapids area's strong base of aerospace, advanced manufacturing, transportation and logistics companies, the hub is built to support expansion, innovation and long-term success. For companies looking to scale operations, strengthen supply chain connections, and be part of a growing industry cluster, Ascentus provides the infrastructure, talent and collaborative environment to make it happen.

IOWA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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SKILLED TALENT PIPELINE

Iowa is well known for its skilled and productive workforce. The state's colleges and universities have programs that prepare for current and future workforce demands and play a key role in giving Iowa the upper hand in specialized career areas. This includes major research institutions as well as private colleges like Coe College, which help build a strong pipeline of graduates with in-demand technical and analytical skills. For example, Iowa has the third-highest concentration of mechanical engineers, eleventh-highest concentration of industrial engineers and twelfth-highest concentration of materials engineers in the nation.

The Iowa Space Grant Consortium (ISGC), part of NASA's National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program, further strengthens the state's STEM pipeline by connecting students and educators to internships, fellowships and hands-on learning opportunities in aerospace and related fields.

Iowa also has a strong network of community colleges that provide hands-on training for high-demand career paths and specialized skills. Kirkwood Community College's aviation maintenance technology program, for example, offers instruction at an airplane hangar at the Eastern Iowa Airport. Students graduate with an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree or certificate, preparing them to pass the Federal Aviation Administration certification exam.

COMPETITIVE BUSINESS CLIMATE

- Central geographic location in North America, making it easier to move products around the world
- Right-to-work state
- Direct financial assistance and tax benefit programs based on capital investment and job quality for high-impact, innovation-driven industries
- Tax credits available for research and development activities

- Competitively priced buildings and sites
- Flexible job training programs that provide customized training for new and current employees
- Favorable tax structure
 - Corporate income tax rate is 7.1%, lowering to an ultimate target of 5.5%, making it one of the most competitive in the nation
 - Single factor, based only on the percentage of total sales income within the state
 - If a business has no sales in Iowa, it pays no Iowa corporate income tax
 - No personal property (inventory) tax
 - No property tax on industrial machinery and equipment
 - No sales or use tax on manufacturing machinery, equipment or computers
 - No sales tax on electricity or natural gas used in the manufacturing process
 - Personal income tax rate is a flat and fair 3.8%
- Established the Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Production Tax Credit, offering financial incentives for businesses producing SAF within Iowa, encouraging innovation and investment in sustainable energy solutions
- Ranks 1st in the nation and 2nd in the world in electricity generated from clean power sources (American Clean Power, 2025; Rocky Mountain Institute, 2024)
- Electricity rates for all sectors are 28% lower than the national average (U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2025)
- Ranks #1 in the U.S. for cost of living (CNBC, 2023) and #2 for opportunity (U.S. News & World Report, 2025)

For site location assistance, contact the
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JG 06102026

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