

Aerospace

Our Growing Aerospace Cluster



- The number of avionics technicians in our labor shed grew by 67% from 2011 to 2016.
- The number of people employed in aircraft parts manufacturing in our labor shed grew by 199% from 2011 to 2016.
- The number of aerospace engineers in our labor shed grew by 5% from 2011 to 2016.
- Bell has a structural assembly, finishing, and outfitting facility in Sullivan County, employing almost 500 people.
- Wysong Enterprises is a leader in aerospace modifications and installations, offering audio-video integrations, special mission brackets and full aircraft completions for EMS, law enforcement, corporate and broadcast applications in their Sullivan County facility.

- DEC Technologies manufactures and sells more than 1,500 FAA-PMA-approved parts to the worldwide commercial airline and aerospace industry in Sullivan County.
- Northeast State Community College and Bell have partnered for aerospace degree and certificate programs.
- *Aviation Week & Space Technology* ranks Virginia Tech (125 miles from Sullivan County) as one of the best universities for aerospace employee recruitment.
- Virginia Tech's Department of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering graduates 100 Bachelor's, 25 Master's, and 10 Doctoral degrees per year with focuses in aerodynamics, hydrodynamics, structural mechanics, material science, dynamics and control, multidisciplinary design optimization, and energy systems.
- The University of Tennessee in Knoxville (99 miles from Sullivan County) has an aerospace engineering program and does extensive research in the areas of hypersonic aerodynamics, atmospheric entry, and computational fluid dynamics.
- Sullivan County has an aerospace industrial park with direct access to runways, cargo facilities, etc.

Skilled Labor

- Less than 3.5% of employees in Sullivan County are a members of a union.
- Tennessee is a right-to-work state.
- Our labor shed has 44 times more materials scientists than the average US county.
- Our labor shed has 4 times the employment of avionics technicians than the average US county.
- Our labor shed has 3 times the employment in aircraft parts manufacturing than the average US county.
- Our labor shed features 5,671 team assemblers; 945 welders; 678 machinists; 397 electrical and electronics engineering technicians; 390 software developers; 381 industrial engineering technicians; 306 mechanical engineers; 313 sheet metal workers; and 114 electrical engineers.

Engineering Talent

- Our labor shed has 52% more Industrial Engineers than the average US county.
- The number of aerospace engineers in our labor shed grew by 5% from 2011 to 2016.
- An average of 676 people graduate with an Engineering degree in our labor shed each year.
- Our labor shed features 306 mechanical engineers and 114 electrical engineers.

Tri-Cities Regional Airport and Aerospace Park

Certified Aerospace Park with Direct Runway Access

[Click here for more on Aerospace Park](#)

- Aerospace Park is located at the airport and features:
 - 35 acres with direct airfield access to two runways, ready for immediate development
 - 175 additional acres under preparation for development
 - Up to 21 pad-ready acres
 - Gas: 2", 60psi line provided by Atmos Energy
 - Water: 12" line provided by City of Johnson City
 - Sewer: Services provided by City of Johnson City
 - Communications: Fiber & copper in place, provided by CenturyLink
 - Electric: Service provided by Bristol Tennessee Essential Services (BTES)
 - Airfield Access: Direct cargo apron, taxiway and runway access
 - On-site Customs Port and Foreign-Trade Zone
- Primary runway: 5/23 – 8,000 feet by 150 feet. Runway 5 has a Category II Instrument Landing System (ILS) and 23 has a Category I ILS
- Secondary runway: 9/27 – 4,447 feet by 150 feet
- Upgraded Instrument Landing System, Mark 20 ILS, GPS compatible, remote maintenance and monitoring
- Tri-Cities Regional Airport features eight conventional hangars ranging in size from 8,000-square-feet to 28,000-square-feet of storage space. (Total of 13,250-square-feet storage, plus 7,500-square-feet of office space)
- The Tri-Cities Regional Airport in Kingsport offers multiple daily flights to Charlotte, Atlanta, Orlando, and St. Petersburg.

[Click here for more on the Tri-Cities Regional Airport](#)

Additional Site for Aerospace:

Partnership Park I

- 108 acre industrial-business park
- 4 miles from Interstate 81
- 5-28 acre sites available

[Click here for more on Partnership Park I](#)

Colleges and Universities with an Aerospace Focus



- Northeast State Community College and Bell have partnered for aerospace degree and certificate programs. The program includes training instructors from Bell teaming with classroom personnel to teach students. The program's base load is electromechanical.
- *Aviation Week & Space Technology* ranks Virginia Tech (125 miles from Sullivan County) as one of the best universities for aerospace employee recruitment.
- Virginia Tech's Department of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering graduates 100 Bachelors, 25 Masters, and 10 Doctoral degrees per year, with focuses in aerodynamics, hydrodynamics, structural mechanics, material science, dynamics and control, multidisciplinary design optimization, and energy systems.
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[Click here for more Workforce Training Information](#)

Transportation

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Interstates 81 & 26 intersect in Sullivan County



- Sullivan County is served by 2 Class I Railroads - CSX & Norfolk Southern

- Tri-Cities Regional Airport
 - Served by Delta Airlines, US Airways, and Allegiant Air
 - Nonstop Access to: Atlanta, Charlotte, Orlando, and St. Petersburg
 - Primary Runway - 8,000' x 150'
 - Upgraded Instrument Landing System
 - More than 200,000 passenger boardings per year

[Click here for more on Transportation](#)

Support Services

- 67 Machine Shops
- 23 Fabricated Structural Metal Manufacturers
- 13 Tool and Die Companies
- 10 Electroplating, Polishing, and Anodizing Manufacturers
- 9 Metal Coating and Engraving Manufacturers
- 9 Sheet Metal Work Manufacturers
- 6 Printed Circuit Assemblers
- 4 Machine Tool Manufacturers
- 3 Rolled Steel Shape Manufacturing
- 3 Aluminium Rolling, Drawing, and Extruding

[Click here to see more Support Services](#)

Low Natural Disaster Risk

- According to USA.com, Sullivan County has a 34.60 Tornado Index. The US average is 136.45, and Tennessee's average is 175.35.
- According to USA.com, Sullivan County has a 0.16 Earthquake Index, compared to the US average of 1.81.

Additional Information

[Utilities](#)

[Taxes and Business Climate](#)

[Primary and Secondary Education](#)

Colleges and Universities

Incentives