

Aerospace

Our Growing Aerospace Cluster

- The number of avionics technicians in our labor shed grew by 67% from 2011 to 2019.
- The number of people employed in aircraft parts manufacturing in our labor shed grew by 199% from 2011 to 2019.
- The number of aerospace engineers in our labor shed grew by 5% from 2011 to 2019.
- 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 (98 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.

Tri-Cities 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:
 - 40 acres with direct airfield access to two runways, ready for immediate development
 - 120 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)
- Air?eld 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 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 Airport in Kingsport offers multiple daily flights to Charlotte, Atlanta, Orlando, and St. Petersburg.

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

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.
- The University of Tennessee in Knoxville (98 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.

NESCC & Bell Press Release

NESCC & Bell Curriculum Catalog

[Click here for more Workforce Training Information](#)

Skilled Labor

- Less than 3.5% of employees in Sullivan County are 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.
- 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.

Additional Information

Utilities

Taxes and Business Climate

Primary and Secondary Education

Colleges and Universities

Incentives