Orlando is at the center of an enormous cluster of aerospace and defense companies. The top seven companies on the Fortune 500 list all have operations – including major manufacturing operations – in or near Orlando.

FEATURED EMPLOYERS

Orlando universities offer specialized programs dedicated to preparing the aerospace and defense workforce. Applicable programs include:

- University of Central Florida Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Bachelor’s, Master’s and Ph.D. programs for Aerospace Engineering
- Eastern Florida State College Aerospace Technology Program
- Florida Institute of Technology Bachelor’s in Aerospace Engineering

TALENT PIPELINE

No. 1 for STEM Job Growth in the U.S.
Forbes, 2018

UCF is No. 1 Aerospace and Defense Workforce Supplier
Aviation Week, 2015-20

$6B+ Annual Simulation-Related Contracts
National Center for Simulation, 2019

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Lockheed Martin completed the construction of a new built-to-suit R&D facility for its Missiles and Fire Control (MFC) operations in under one year.

Thales Group expanded to Orlando adding 173 new jobs and $6.6 million manufacturing facility building in-flight experience products to international airlines.

INDUSTRY ASSETS

Orlando’s established industry cluster has grown due to supportive R&D and industry partners.

TEAM Orlando:
Team Orlando is a unique, collaborative alliance of leading U.S. military organizations working in modeling, simulation and training in Orlando.

Naval Support Activity Orlando: Naval Support Activity (NSA) Orlando opened in 1988 as the home of the Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division (NAWCTSD) Orlando. NAWCTSD Orlando is the Navy’s principal center for modeling, simulation, and training systems technologies.

Central Florida Research Park: The Central Florida Research Park is a campus-like environment for business, located adjacent to the University of Central Florida. Businesses that desire a "university relationship" can purchase land to construct a facility or can lease space for office, office/lab or light manufacturing uses.

CONTACT:
Casey Barnes
VICE PRESIDENT, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
(407) 422.7159
Casey.Barnes@Orlando.org

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