FACT SHEET ON
SOCAL AEROSPACE INDUSTRY CLUSTER

SOCAL’S ADVANTAGES
- Deep ecosystem of aerospace talent, suppliers and specialized service providers
- Active defense sector
- Engineering prowess
- A culture of embracing technological innovation, risk taking and entrepreneurship
- Highly-skilled and specialized workforce

SoCal’s aerospace sector is known for Mars landings, the Space Shuttle, the B-2 Stealth Bomber, development of GPS systems and entrepreneurs from Howard Hughes to Elon Musk.

The aerospace industry is being transformed by new technologies and new markets

SIZING THINGS UP

The aerospace industry represented 90,100 JOBS in Southern CA in 2016, 14% of U.S. industry employment. (Over 100,000 jobs when we include SoCal’s public employees at JPL, NASA, etc.)

Southern CA aerospace generates 268,100 TOTAL JOBS including jobs in its supply chain.

Aerospace industry wages average $106,200 PER YEAR.

Workers are among the HIGHEST-PAID in the SoCal regional economy; almost twice the average paid for other industries.

Southern CA’s aerospace industry overall maintains COMPETITIVE EDGE with employment location quotient (LQ) of 2.1, and an LQ of 3.4 for guided missiles and space vehicles.

THE INDUSTRY SPENDS MORE THAN $28 BILLION on goods and services for inputs into production.

Aerospace wages have RISEN 7% in Instrumentation and 24% in Guided Missiles, Space Vehicles and Parts since 2004.

[1] Report was created by Dr. Christine Cooper at the LAEDC’s Institute for Applied Economics.
TWO MAIN OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS:

- Production Workers: 26% of jobs
- Engineering Occupations: 22% of jobs

41% of job openings between 2014 and 2019 will require a bachelor’s degree or higher.

Southern CA excels at training the workforce for aerospace jobs, with WORLD-CLASS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS offering many targeted training programs.

What the industry says...

More than half of survey respondents indicate Southern CA is an “excellent” or “good” place to do business.

Located in Southern CA primarily for proximity to customers, suppliers and/or legacy of company. Quality of life in SoCal attracts top talent. Favorable climate enables testing and product development faster than elsewhere in U.S.

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