



# SOUTH FLORIDA AEROSPACE COUNCIL

*A regional coalition for aerospace, defense, and advanced manufacturing.*

EXECUTIVE CHARTER · TRI-COUNTY, FLORIDA · 2026

*Organizing what is already here, and positioning  
South Florida to capture what is coming.*

§ I

## Mission Statement

*The aerospace industry is undergoing its biggest transformation since the space race, and the places that will define this era have not yet been decided.*

South Florida has assembled the conditions to be among them in ways that have gone almost entirely unnoticed, including by the region itself. We must act decisively to ensure this rare alignment is not remembered as a missed opportunity of generational scale.

§ II

## Our Objective

The SOUTH FLORIDA AEROSPACE COUNCIL exists to organize what is already here and position this region to capture what is coming. This effort will be built on four pillars of action.

*i.*

### Convene.

Bring together industry leaders, key stakeholders, government and educational institutions that make up South Florida's existing aerospace presence.

*ii.*

### Advocate.

Engage with local, state, and federal policymakers to develop and advance incentive structures that attract and retain aerospace and defense companies in South Florida.

*iii.*

### Recruit.

With a unified voice and a credible value proposition, open direct dialogue with companies considering expansion or relocation to the region.

*iv.*

### Develop.

Coordinate workforce development between the region's universities, technical colleges, and industry employers, so the talent South Florida produces stays in South Florida.



§ III

## The Case for South Florida

The global space economy surpassed \$600 billion in 2025 and is projected to exceed \$1 trillion within the next decade, driven by the return to the Moon through NASA's Artemis program, a Space Force budget that has grown 124% in just two years, and the emergence of orbital data centers being developed by SpaceX, Google, and Blue Origin. Every one of these programs will generate enormous demand for the manufacturing, defense contracting, engineering, and supply chain infrastructure that supports them.

South Florida is uniquely positioned to capture that demand. The region has experienced one of the largest migrations of institutional capital in modern American history, operates the busiest freight airport in the United States, and is home to a mostly unknown network of aerospace education programs.

Most critically, the industry is already here. Palm Beach County alone is home to 1,600 aviation, aerospace, and engineering companies. HEICO CORPORATION, a \$37 billion aerospace manufacturer, is headquartered in Hollywood. LOCKHEED MARTIN, NORTHROP GRUMMAN, and BOEING all maintain operations in the region. In 2025, AST SPACEMOBILE announced a satellite manufacturing facility in Homestead.

Yet these companies are scattered across the tri-county with almost no visibility into one another and no coordinated voice representing the region. The ecosystem exists. What it lacks is organization.

§ IV

## Space Coast Partnership

The South Florida Aerospace Council is not proposing a rival to the Space Coast. It is proposing its complement. The Space Coast is a launch corridor, but launch is only one stage in an aerospace value chain that stretches far upstream of the launchpad. The satellites must be manufactured. The propulsion systems must be built and maintained. The components must be sourced, financed, and delivered.

South Florida offers the capital markets, logistics infrastructure, corporate environment, and workforce to support exactly that kind of upstream activity. A coordinated partnership between the two regions would make Florida the most complete aerospace state in the country — a corridor stretching from the launchpads of Cape Canaveral to the capital and logistics hub of Miami with no gap in between. That is a strategic advantage no other state can replicate.

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ISSUED

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Tri-County, Florida

REGION

Miami-Dade · Broward · Palm Beach  
Tri-county aerospace corridor