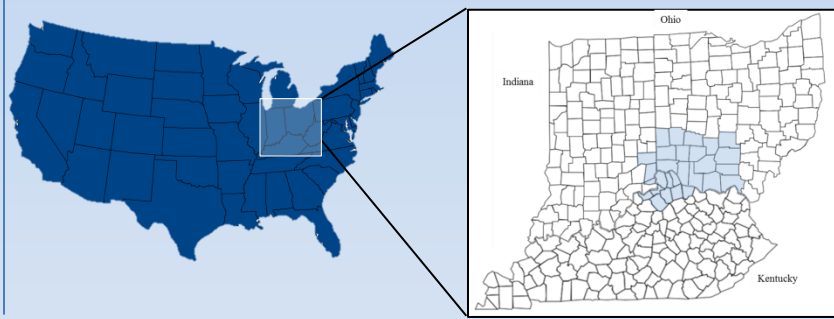


Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership

Southwestern Ohio Aerospace Region Manufacturing Community



The Community

The Southwestern Ohio Aerospace Region's strengths in aerospace manufacturing date back to the Wright brothers and their invention of the airplane in Dayton, OH. It is at the heart of an historical and growing aerospace industry in the United States. Today more than 64 aerospace companies employ almost 12,000 workers in the region. SOAR is in the top-third nationally across 23 of the 25 industries that make up aerospace supply chains, and across these aerospace supply chains, employs 116,000 manufacturing workers. The region's position at the vanguard of the manufacturing revival has been recognized by Forbes magazine and by the Brookings Institution, which named SOAR a top twenty North American trade metro.

The Vision

SOAR's aspiration is for the region to be internationally recognized by the aerospace industry as the place to manufacture parts and engines globally. The region is embarking on this multi-faceted strategy that will grow existing businesses and recruit new industry that will grow jobs and capital investment across the region, ultimately enhancing the United States' economy and reputation as an aerospace leader.

The Strategy

Workforce and Training: SOAR will facilitate the development of industry-led curriculum at local colleges and training institutions. For employers looking for workers with specific skills, SOAR will create customized training programs. And SOAR will increase the availability of internships through programs like the SOCHE 20x20 challenge which is working to create 20,000 internships by 2020. SOAR will also create opportunities for high school students to earn industry-relevant certificates documenting their skills. SOAR's workforce initiatives will help up-skill over 16,000 former manufacturing workers in the region and position them to capture jobs in the growing aerospace industry.

Supply Networks: Major aerospace manufacturers, like Boeing, now spend more in Ohio than they do in Washington, New York, Texas, and Florida combined. To ensure its supply chains are capable of meeting this growing demand, SOAR will help suppliers become AS9100 certified or tier two certified and will create a portal for OEMs to request bids and for suppliers to see bid requests from OEMs. In addition, SOAR will conduct targeted attraction to recruit companies to fill any open gaps in the capabilities of its supply chain.

Research and Innovation: With over \$10 billion of aerospace R&D investment today, SOAR seeks to expand its research market share in the rapidly changing sector of aerospace, with additional opportunities in additive manufacturing and aero-propulsion technology. SOAR plans to offer seed grants and venture capital funding to spur more research efforts in these emerging technologies. It will also work to connect aerospace manufacturers and university R&D through regional research consortia.

Infrastructure and Site Development: SOAR will expand the Jobs Ready Sites Program which pre-certifies sites as “shovel ready” for manufacturers and to expand efforts at local utility companies that help prepare for large industry investments. SOAR will also seek to maintain the region’s logistical advantage by working with partners to ensure roads, rail lines, and ports in the region allow for easy access in and out of the region. In addition, SOAR is making the targeting of brownfields and greyfields a top priority. Working together, partners in the region have already been able to convert 200 acres of contaminated property to productive use.

Trade and International Investment: SOAR will implement strategies specific to increasing trade by and between existing suppliers in the region and companies around the world. SOAR will develop a network of partners to provide export assistance to existing businesses and a strategy to grow the existing base of employment.

Operational Improvement and Capital Access: SOAR will seek to increase the capital available for manufacturing businesses in the SOAR. It will also identify improvement capabilities to help aerospace suppliers and companies become more efficient and effective.

The Partnership

Core partners: City of Cincinnati, City of Dayton, the Dayton Development Coalition (DDC), Regional Economic Development Initiative Cincinnati (REDI), Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce **Workforce and higher education:** University of Cincinnati, Wright State University, Miami University, Northern Kentucky University, Sinclair Community College, Cincinnati State Technical & Community College, Gateway Community and Technical College, Southwest Ohio Regional Workforce Investment Board, Area 7 Workforce Investment Board, Partners for a Competitive Workforce, Employers First Regional Workforce Network **Supply Chain:** TechSolve, University of Dayton Research Institute, National Composites Center, Kentucky Alliance Manufacturing Extension Partnership **Research:** Air Force Research Lab, University of Dayton School of Engineering, GE Episcenter, Wright State University Research Institute, University of Cincinnati Research Institute and College of Engineering and Applied Science, Ohio Center for Intelligent Propulsion and Advanced Life Management, Ohio Center for Advanced Propulsion and Power, Northern Kentucky Center for Applied Informatics **Infrastructure:** Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments, Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, Ohio Department of Transportation, Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority **Capital access:** Wright Brothers Institute, JobsOhio, CityWide, Hamilton County Development Company