Alberta’s dynamic aerospace and defence sector offers great investment potential and many prospects for business growth. Alberta’s aerospace sector is diverse, with hundreds of companies operating in a variety of sub-sectors, delivering a range of products and services.

KEY STATS:
- The aerospace and defence sector employs 16,000 people in Alberta
- More than 500 aerospace and defence companies operate in Alberta
- The sector directly contributes $3.25 billion annually to Alberta’s GDP

Source: OMX Data Analytics (2019)

INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS:
- There are three major international airports in Alberta: Calgary International (YYC), Edmonton International (YEG) and Fort McMurray International (YMM)
- Both WestJet, one of Canada’s largest commercial airlines, and Flair Airlines, a low-cost commercial carrier, are headquartered in Alberta
- Foremost UAS Test Range is the only Transport Canada authorized range of its kind in Western Canada and is well-suited for Unmanned Aircraft Systems and Beyond Visual Line of Sight flight operations
- There are four Canadian Forces Bases (CFB) located in Alberta: Cold Lake, Edmonton, Wainwright, and Suffield

COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES:
Alberta is a leading region for remotely piloted aircraft systems, simulation and computer-based training systems and aircraft manufacturing. The province is also competitive in aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul. Alberta’s competitive advantage in the sector is largely driven by strong engineering, geomatics, software development, and manufacturing capabilities. Additional competitive advantages include:

- Strong reputation for successful startup and growth of low/ultra low cost carrier airlines
- Expertise and knowledge in aerospace/defence components and parts manufacturing
- Excellent post-secondary institutions with multiple aerospace and defence sector training, research and innovation facilities

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AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Aerospace-based geomatics and scientific research
- Air cargo logistics
- Air transportation - commercial and corporate aviation
- Defence electronics
- Helicopter industry
- Manufacturing, maintenance, repair, overhaul, and assembly
- Military support and training
- Space science research and technology
- Training and simulation
- Remotely-Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS)

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT:

- Defence Research and Development Canada Suffield is a leader in defence science and technology that develops and delivers technical solutions and advice to the Department of National Defence and commercial companies
- The Alberta Aerospace and Technology Center training hub at the Edmonton International Airport focuses on innovative technology research and commercialization of remotely piloted aircraft systems, artificial intelligence, flight simulators, and other technologies
- The Centre for Innovation and Research in Unmanned Systems (CIRUS) at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) focuses on expanding the role unmanned systems play in data acquisitions and management

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Investment Services is your one-stop connection to doing business in Alberta. Our team of investment professionals can give you the lay of the land, help you map out your next steps and give you the customized guidance you need to succeed. Alberta is open for business and your investment plans and ideas are important. Let us know how we can help your company thrive!

CONTACT US! Investment.Services@gov.ab.ca