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Alaska's Emerging Sector Series: Aviation & Aerospace

June 27, 2018 ANCHORAGE – Focusing on the aviation and aerospace industries, the third installment in the Alaska Division of Economic Development's five-part Emerging Sector Series highlights competitive advantages and opportunities for growth. Previous reports in the series, which was developed in partnership with the University of Alaska Center for Economic Development, include Boat and Ship Building and Renewable Energy, with Outdoor Manufacturing due later this year, and Food Manufacturing scheduled for release in early 2019.

Both the aviation and aerospace industries have strong roots in Alaska. With a major air cargo hub, rocket launch sites, abundant airfields and airspace, and a robust aviation culture, Alaska has competitive advantages that create opportunities for both aviation and aerospace to become even more significant drivers of Alaska's economy.

"Alaska has more airspace without entry or clearance requirements than any other state," said Britteny Cioni-Haywood, director of the Division of Economic Development. "We also have more pilots and registered aircraft per capita than any other state and over 750 airports. Combined with our strong history of innovation related to air transportation, Alaska provides an attractive environment for entrepreneurs to test new aviation technologies."

The report, available on the [Division of Economic Development website](#), explores the market and economic trends associated with the aviation and aerospace sectors in Alaska, highlights individual entrepreneurs and businesses, and identifies potential strategies to support growth in the sector.

"The FAA estimates show one out of ten jobs in Alaska has some connection to air transportation," said Nolan Klouda, executive director for the Center for Economic Development. "And today there are inspiring new areas of growth—innovators in Alaska are experimenting with airships, liquid-fueled rockets, and even unmanned cargo delivery."

The report and its key findings were presented today at the [Vitalize Alaska](#) conference in Anchorage. Speaker panels featured some of Alaska's top business leaders alongside award-winning presenters from out of state discussing ways to create a thriving small business sector in Alaska.

The five-part Emerging Sectors Series is being produced by the Center for Economic Development with sponsorship from the Division of Economic Development. The reports are being released periodically throughout 2018 and 2019. Subscribe to the [economic development electronic mailing list](#) to receive the emerging sector reports and other economic studies via email.

Housed within Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED), the Division of Economic Development supports the growth and diversification of Alaska's economy through policy, promotion, financing, and business assistance. For additional information about the division, please visit commerce.alaska.gov/web/DED. To learn more about DCCED and its other agencies, please visit commerce.alaska.gov.

The University of Alaska Center for Economic Development (CED) is a university based partnership promoting economic diversity through entrepreneurship, community building, and action oriented strategy. CED is a program of the University of Alaska Anchorage Business Enterprise Institute and is one of 52 University Centers designated by the U.S. Economic Development Administration. To learn more about CED, please visit ua-ced.org.

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ATTACHED: *Alaska's Aviation Facts*