

# AEROSPACE & DEFENSE



The Austin Region's Aerospace & Defense cluster is rapidly expanding, adding a new dimension to the region's established tech landscape. With aerospace as a longstanding business line among Austin's tech employers, the region embraces the challenges and opportunities of advancing technologies.

**143,000**  
**employees**  
in STEM occupations

**109,000**  
**employees**  
in computer & engineering  
occupations

**13,000**  
**employees**  
in aerospace

## Recent Announcements & Economic Impact in Austin

### Economic Impact

**#4 Metro** for tech's economic impact as a percentage of the local economy (24.7%) - CompTIA

### Major Announcements

**DARPA Selection:** Firefly Aerospace and ICON chosen for the lunar spacecraft hub - TechCrunch

**Acutronic HQ Relocation & Manufacturing Expansion:** Acutronic relocated their global headquarters to Austin, expanded their manufacturing facility in Bastrop, and developed a PTECH program with a regional ISD

## Military Influence

**Army Futures Command:** Headquartered in Austin with over 17,000 personnel worldwide, established in 2018 to drive technological innovation and warfighting capability.



**AFWERX:** Established in 2017 to accelerate agile and affordable capability transitions by teaming innovative technology developers with Airman and Guardian talent.



**Army Applications Laboratory:** Located in Austin, this innovation unit partners with industry and government to develop and implement cutting-edge solutions for Soldiers.

**Strategic Workforce Location:** Austin benefits from a skilled workforce of trained personnel transitioning from nearby Fort Cavazos and Joint Base San Antonio.

## UT Austin: Leading R&D and Academic Excellence

### Rankings

**#5** in DOD-financed R&D spending  
**#6** in Mathematics R&D spending  
**#7** in Computer Science Graduate Program

**#8** in Computer Engineering  
**#8** in Engineering R&D spending  
**#8** in Aerospace Graduate Programs

### Academic Programs

Engineering  
**6,000** Undergraduate students  
**2,000** Graduate students

## Aerospace & Defense Employers in the Austin Region

