

FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Industry Focus: Space

The Washington, D.C. region, with Fairfax County as the major economic driver, has emerged as a hub for space-related engineering, R&D, technical assistance, and services. This fact sheet provides a snapshot of the U.S. space market, operating environment, and partners located in Fairfax County and the D.C. region.

\$610 BILLION GLOBAL SPACE INDUSTRY IS EXPECTED TO REACH \$2 TRILLION BY 2040

U.S. SPACE INDUSTRY BY THE NUMBERS

\$142.5 B

U.S. SPACE ECONOMY

#1

IN THE WORLD FOR
BOTH GOVERNMENT
AND PRIVATE-SECTOR
SPACE INVESTMENT

373,000

EMPLOYEES

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, World Economic Forum

WASHINGTON, D.C., REGION SPACE INDUSTRY

The Washington, DC region is the epicenter of U.S. space policy, strategy, and leadership, hosting key federal agencies (**NASA Headquarters, U.S. Space Force, Department of Commerce**), major defense contractors (**Northrop Grumman, General Dynamics Mission Systems**), and leading advocacy organizations (**The Aerospace Corporation, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics**). Together, these institutions drive a robust ecosystem linking government, defense, and the growing commercial space sector across the DMV.

SPACE INDUSTRY FOCUS AREAS

- 1.** Data Analytics
- 2.** Engineering/Design (Satellite/Launch Vehicle/ Software/Systems)
- 3.** Exploration (Robotics/Remote observation)
- 4.** Government/ Policy/Regulation
- 5.** Mission Support (Ground/Launch)
- 6.** Satellite/Space-Based Communications
- 7.** Cybersecurity/ Security

WORKFORCE

The Washington, D.C. region has a diverse and technically capable STEM workforce.



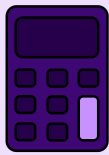
3.5 M

LABOR FORCE



22,000

SPACE INDUSTRY-RELATED DEGREES



#2

COMPUTER AND MATHEMATICAL EMPLOYMENT



#3

AEROSPACE AND ENGINEERING EMPLOYMENT

NASA PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS – FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA

- Virginia Space Grant Consortium (VSGC) – NASA Partnerships
- The Aerospace Corporation Partnerships with NASA
- NASA Internships & STEM Pathways via VSGC & Industry



SPACE INDUSTRY - HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERS (SELECTED)

NASA District of Columbia Space Grant Consortium is composed of eight D.C. area higher education institutions that provide opportunities for students of all ages (K-12 and Higher Ed) to learn more about space industry careers.

- American Public University System
- American University
- Gallaudet University
- George Mason University
- George Washington University
- Howard University
- Johns Hopkins University
- University Of Maryland – College Park

RECENT COMPANY EXPANSIONS/ RELOCATIONS – FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA

- Aerovironment
- Aireon
- The Aerospace Corporation
- American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
- BosonQ Psi ● ●
- D-Fend Solutions ●
- Hanwha Defense ●
- Israel Aerospace Industry (IAI) NA ●
- Kellogg Brown & Root (KBR)
- LeoLabs
- Lynk
- Quartus Engineering ●
- Scout Space
- Textron Systems
- Trident Systems
- Trustpoint GPS

KEY: ● Foreign-owned ● Recent financing event

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Fairfax County
Economic Development Authority

WASHINGTON, D.C., REGION SPACE INDUSTRY CLUSTER KEY RESOURCES

CIVIL SPACE AGENCIES

- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) – Office of Commercial Space Transportation
- Goddard Space Flight Center
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Department of Energy (DOE)

DEFENSE / INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES

- Defense Intelligence Agency
- Department of War
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
- National Reconnaissance Office (NRO)
- Space Development Agency
- U.S. Space Force

POLICY/REGULATORY AGENCIES

- Department of Commerce – Office of Space Commerce
- Department of State – Office of Space Affairs
- Federal Communications Commissions
- National Space Council
- Office of Science and Technology
- US Commercial Services

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

- Canadian Space Agency (CSA)
- European Space Agency (ESA)
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
- Roscosmos
- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)

EDUCATION / TRAINING

- Georgetown University
- Montgomery College
- Norther Virginia Community College
- Capitol Technology University
- Bowie State University
- Old Dominion University
- Virginia Tech
- University of Virginia
- College of William & Mary
- Virginia Community College System

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

- DARPA
- Georgetown University – Space Initiative
- The George Washington University – Space Policy Institute
- Johns Hopkins University – Applied Physics Laboratory
- NASA Innovative Advances Concepts
- Space Foundation
- Aerospace Industries Association

SPACE TECHNOLOGY COMPANY HIGHLIGHT



Hawkeye 360 (Herndon, VA): A flagship Fairfax County space company operating a commercial satellite constellation that delivers mission-critical RF intelligence to U.S. government and allied customers, anchoring the region’s leadership in advanced geospatial analytics and national security innovation.

Additional Space Technology Companies:

Company	Location	Description
GRVTY	Tysons	Customers in national security community
Iridium Communications	McLean	LEO constellation, comms-focus
Space Quest	Fairfax	Satellite systems & mission engineering
Spider Oak	Reston	Space cybersecurity (enabling technology)
Spire Global	Vienna	Multi-sensor satellite constellation & analytics
Umbra Space	Reston	Advanced remote sensing and resilient satellite