Opportunity

Washington state is the nation’s leader in aerospace. In 2015, the industry generated $69.9 billion in economic activity in the state and supported 136,100 direct jobs at 1,400 related companies.

The industry is truly statewide as each of the Washington’s 39 counties is home to at least one aerospace-related company.

For over 100-years, The Boeing Company has revolutionized flight from the Pacific Northwest. Its supply chain extends across the state, supporting a total 192,200 jobs.

In June 2017, Boeing revealed early details of its potential new airplane. The new jet could serve medium range routes between 3,000-5,200 nautical miles, or 10 hours of flight. It would seat between 220 and 270 passengers. The widebody jet is expected to feature a first-of-its-kind composite fuselage as well as composite wings.

Boeing has opened a program “study” office in Renton. Boeing has not made a decision on the location of design, production or final assembly.

Regional Perspective

The central Puget Sound region is the global hub for aerospace. The region supports 93,000 of the state’s jobs in this cluster — 11 times the nation’s average concentration of aerospace jobs.

Boeing has a long history of engineering and manufacturing in the Puget Sound area. From industrial centers throughout the region, Boeing builds the 737 MAX, the P-8 military aircraft, carbon-fiber composite wings and tail for the 777X, and the 747, 767, and Air Force One.
In 2016, Boeing opened its $1 billion 777X Composite Wing Center in Everett – manufacturing the world’s largest composite wings. Assets such as the CWC as well as the state’s established supply chain, modernizing infrastructure, highly-skilled workforce, spirit of innovation, and deep pool of talent make it a prime location for design, production, and final assembly of the NMA.

The Boeing NMA would reinforce the state's strength in the aerospace industry and engage another generation in Boeing’s Pacific Northwest legacy. It would also prepare the state for post-NMA and other build opportunities.

**Project Details**

Stakeholders representing aerospace-related communities and industries will work to organize, fund, advocate, and communicate efforts regarding the NMA and other build opportunities. This work will increase positive public perception of the aerospace industry, strengthen the state’s economy, and prepare the state to build many or all facets of the NMA and other Boeing airplanes.

**Next steps:** PSRC will provide support for statewide efforts to secure design, production, and final assembly of the NMA in Washington state.

**Success measures:** Improved public relationship with the aerospace industry, strengthened workforce and economy, and final assembly of the Boeing NMA and post-NMA airplane in the state.