

Defense & Aerospace

Built for mission critical performance...

- More than **\$12.8 billion of economic output**
- **1 / 8 jobs in Louisville Metro** supported by defense, aerospace, and cargo operations

Louisville has a long history of building the systems that power, protect, and sustain America's national security. Today, that legacy has evolved into a growing hub for defense and aerospace manufacturing for advanced industrial systems supporting critical national security missions.

Located at the crossroads of the Midwest and South, Louisville offers defense and aerospace companies a rare combination of precision manufacturing capability, secure and time-definite logistics, and access to a skilled industrial workforce experienced regulated environments.

- **1,500+ regional manufacturing firms** with deep capabilities in precision machining, heavy fabrication, and complex assembly.
- Proximity to major defense and aerospace primes and Tier 1 suppliers, enabling tight supplier integration and rapid collaboration.
- Access to UPS Worldport, **one of the world's most secure and reliable air cargo hubs**, supporting time-sensitive and mission-critical shipments with **multimodal infrastructure** including interstates (I-64, I-65, I-71), river ports on the Ohio River, and transcontinental rail service.



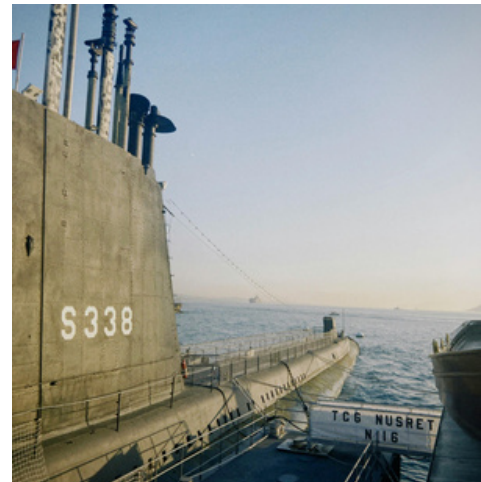
“ Throughout our history, Whelan has remained firmly committed to supporting the U.S. military, contributing to critical programs such as Phalanx, RAM, SeaRAM, Naval Strike Missile, Trident, and other defense systems that safeguard our nation and its allies. That commitment is made possible by Louisville's exceptional workforce, whose dedication, skill, and pride in manufacturing excellence continue to set this region apart.

Louisville's central location and world-class logistics infrastructure—including the presence of the UPS Worldport—provide manufacturers unmatched access to rapid, reliable shipping and global reach. These advantages reinforce the city's role as a strategic hub for advanced manufacturing and national defense.

— **John Triplett**, President, Whelan Machine ”



ONE LOUISVILLE



Defense and aerospace companies in Louisville:

BAE SYSTEMS

Raytheon

Whelan Machine

ASRC
AMERICAN SYNTHETIC RUBBER COMPANY
a Michelin North America Company

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Louisville's defense and aerospace ecosystem is built for the full lifecycle of mission-critical systems—from manufacturing and assembly to maintenance, repair, overhaul, and sustainment. Companies benefit from close collaboration with the **University of Louisville**, a Research 1 institution, and a regional technical college network that trains engineers, machinists, and technicians for high-reliability, high-tolerance production environments. Facilities such as the **Advanced Manufacturing and Information Technology Center (AMIT)** provide hands-on workforce development aligned with modern defense manufacturing needs.



The future of defense and aerospace manufacturing – and sustainment – is built here.

Louisville also supports innovation at the intersection of defense, logistics, and advanced manufacturing. Capabilities in **autonomous systems, sensors and electronics, smart logistics, energy systems, and advanced materials** enable both defense-specific and dual-use innovation.

Based at the University of Louisville, the **Defense Innovation OnRamp Hub Kentucky**, is one of eight defense innovation hubs in the United States focused on bringing new technology to the Department of War through the Defense Innovation Unit. The hub supports the existing defense industry ecosystem and manufacturers across Kentucky by engaging the talents and assets at the University of Louisville.

For programs that demand speed and certainty, Louisville delivers. Companies can **manufacture, integrate, and ship mission-critical components globally within hours**, leveraging end-of-runway access at UPS Worldport and a logistics network trusted for the most time-sensitive cargo in the world.



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One Louisville is a 501(c)(6) nonprofit organization and the official economic development organization and regional chamber of commerce for the Louisville, Kentucky region. One Louisville's mission is to accelerate economic growth across the Louisville region through new investment, talent development, and expanded opportunity for all.

For more information, visit: onelouisville.org.