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Never Touching Down

Airbus has been building aircraft in Alabama for four years. Now they're expanding their production and creating new experiences aimed at growing their future workforce in Mobile.



Flight Works rendering produced by Mott Macdonald.

Airbus is building for the future

Just six short years ago, Airbus began construction on their U.S. manufacturing facility in Mobile, and they haven't slowed down since. They delivered their first A320 in 2016 and have delivered more than 130 aircraft to date.

Last year, it was announced the final assembly for the A220 would also come to Mobile bringing 600 new jobs by mid-2020. This month, they are scheduled to begin producing aircraft with the first plane to be delivered next year.

Once the A220 and A320 assembly lines reach full production capacity, Mobile, and Alabama, will be positioned to be the fourth largest commercial airplane manufacturing center in the world (behind only Everett, Washington; Toulouse, France; and Hamburg, Germany). That's a pretty remarkable feat considering the other cities have been building planes for more than 100 years.

Flight Works Alabama

Construction is currently underway for a new aviation experience center that will help build a future workforce for the aerospace industry. The hands-on instructional facility is designed to bolster Alabama's workforce development efforts and inspire young people to pursue careers in aerospace.

"Success for Airbus, and any company, means we can't just look at what we're doing now, we need to look at what we need later – whether it be next year, next decade, or the next five decades," said Airbus Americas Chairman and CEO Jeff Knittel. "What Airbus and other companies in our industry need to be successful in the future is a skilled, knowledgeable workforce that is ready for that future. Flight Works Alabama will help us create that workforce in a fun, creative way."

Flight Works Alabama will be a 16,000 square-foot experience center with a large interactive exhibition area, classrooms, a collaboration room, a workshop, and a gift shop. It is located near the campus of Airbus' aircraft manufacturing facility at Mobile Aeroplex, and it also serves as a gateway for public tours of Airbus' A320 family assembly line.

"The name 'Flight Works' represents a number of different aspects of the center's mission, just as the center itself will offer varied experiences for each visitor," Knittel

said. "Works' speaks to learning HOW flight actually works, as well as how one can find a career in the aviation industry. In addition, visitors will come face-to-face with the inner-workings of aircraft, systems, and components through hands-on experiences. We are convinced visitors to Flight Works Alabama will walk away with greater knowledge and appreciation of how aviation enriches everyone's lives." He added, "We're so pleased to once again partner with the State of Alabama to further aerospace excellence on the Gulf Coast, and to help inspire a future workforce for the industry."

Flight Works Alabama will also host educational opportunities for adults seeking new or expanded skills in the industry. Nine education partners have signed on to provide these opportunities including Auburn University, Bishop State Community College, Coastal Alabama Community College, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Troy University, Tuskegee University, University of South Alabama, University of Alabama, and University of West Alabama.

Workforce Development Programs

In May, it was announced that Airbus has launched two new hiring programs designed to employ applicants with little-to-no aviation or aerospace experience. The two programs, FlightPath9 and Fast Track,



The first class of FlightPath9 students.

are intended to train participants for the aircraft production workforce from within the Mobile community.

The first program, FlightPath9, targets high school seniors with a desire to work in aerospace. The students will attend training after school during their senior year of high school. Through the nine-month comprehensive learning program, the students will earn certifications, gain specialized instruction, hear from guest speakers and success coaches and more.

Upon graduation, the students who successfully complete FlightPath9 have the opportunity to start their career with Airbus through the program known as Fast Track. Fast Track is a 12 to 15-week program that brings individuals with little-to-no aviation manufacturing experience into

the company and gives them the skills, knowledge and ability required for an aerospace maintenance career.

“These are two great initiatives from Airbus that help build their workforce, but more importantly, build Alabama’s workforce and put our people onto a path to a wonderful career in a growing and thriving industry,” said Alabama Governor Kay Ivey during a ceremony introducing the first FlightPath9 students.

In addition to the Airbus U.S. Manufacturing Facility, the company has an engineering center that employs more than 200 engineers and support staff as well as Airbus’ North American military customer services operation that supports U.S. Coast Guard aircraft near the Mobile Regional Airport.



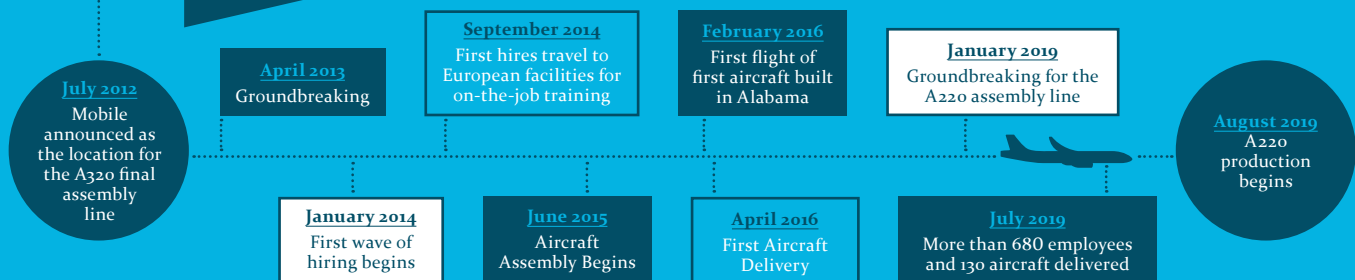
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Airbus in Alabama A Timeline





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