

ASHEVILLE METRO AREA



AEROSPACE

INDUSTRY



Over 620 companies manufacture products in the four-county Asheville MSA, including a diversity of aerospace products, like engine components, engine composites, avionics, and more.



AEROSPACE INDUSTRY FACTS

GROWTH RATE

Aircraft Engine and Engine Parts
Manufacturing Employment
(2015- 2025)

↑ **55%**

Asheville MSA

Source: Lightcast, Harvard Cluster: Aerospace
Vehicles and Defense (NAICS 2022)

ASHEVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT (AVL)



TOP-100 BUSIEST
airport in the U.S.



34% INCREASE
in annual passenger traffic
from 2019-2024



90 ACRES
available for development at the AVL Airport

AS OF JANUARY 1, 2025, NORTH CAROLINA CURRENTLY HAS THE
LOWEST CORPORATE INCOME TAX RATE IN THE COUNTRY AT **2.25%**

450+

Aerospace Suppliers

Over 450 establishments make up North Carolina's aerospace supply chain, including engineering, composite, textile, manufacturing, and MRO companies. Plus, North Carolina's aerospace manufacturing industry purchases 81% of its supply chain inputs from other businesses in the state.

— ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP OF NORTH CAROLINA, 2024



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

POPULATION AGE 25+ WITH ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE OR HIGHER

60% 50% 45% 44%

Asheville City

Asheville MSA

North Carolina

United States

UNIVERSITY FACTS

ASHEVILLE MSA

Enrollment 2022: 16,264

Completions 2023: 3,965
(All completions & programs;)

UNIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTS

A-B Technical Community College

Blue Ridge Community College

Haywood Community College

Mars Hill University

Montreat College

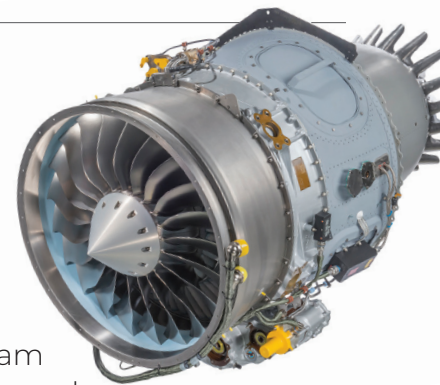
University of North Carolina at Asheville

Warren Wilson College

Western Carolina University
(satellite location)

ADVANCED ENGINEERING PROGRAM

- The 2+2 Engineering program is offered jointly by NC State and UNC Asheville with disciplines that include Computer Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Environmental Engineering, and more. Two years are completed at UNCA and two years at NCSU.
- UNCA and NCSU also jointly offer Mechatronics Engineering. All years are completed in Asheville.



▲ Photography: Courtesy of Pratt & Whitney

TRAINING PROGRAMS

A-B Tech's Advanced Manufacturing Center

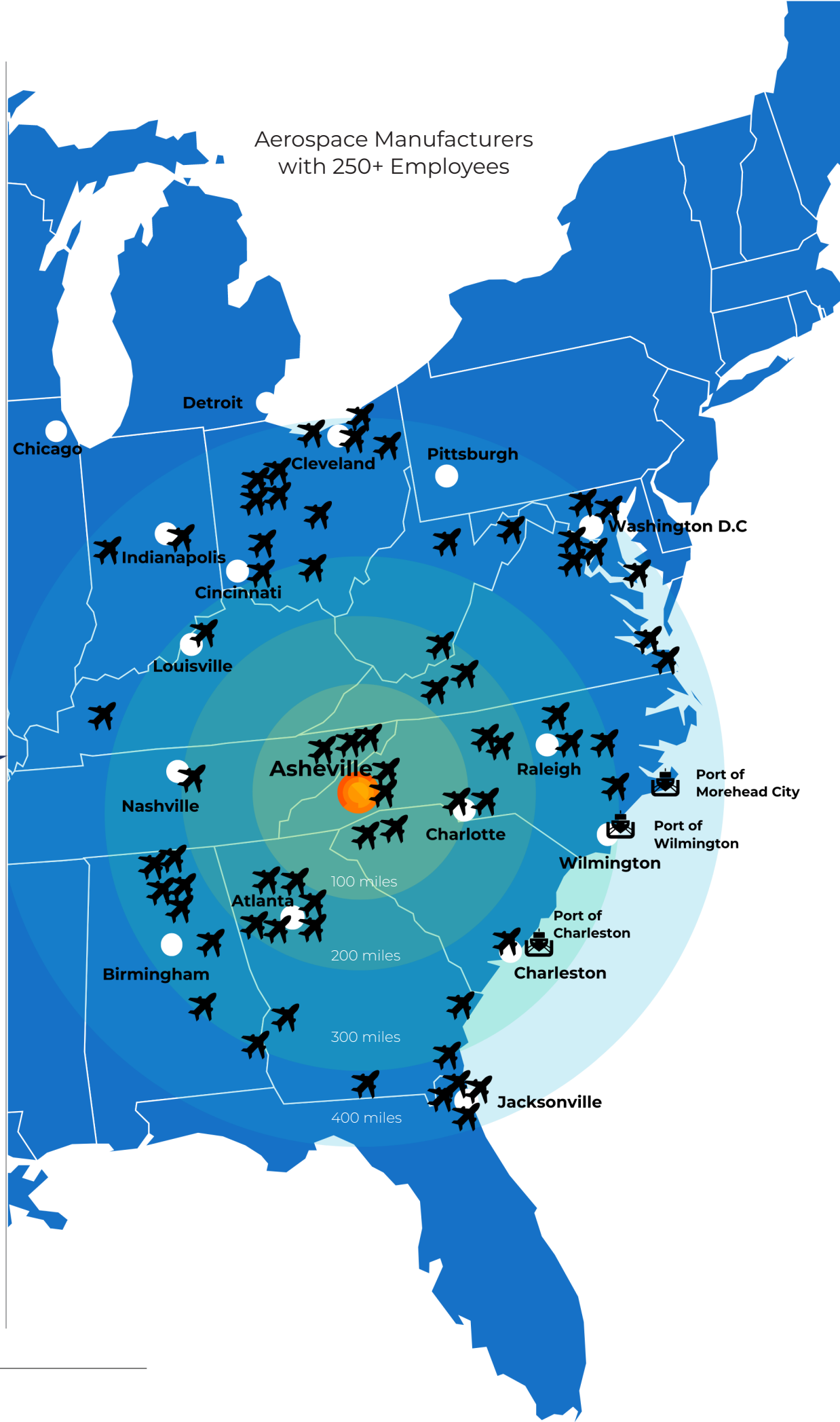
AB-Tech's state-of-the-art manufacturing training center houses the college's Customized Training Programs for business and industry training, including:

- Composites Training Center of Excellence
in coordination with GE Aerospace
- Machining Training Center
in coordination with Pratt & Whitney

There is a broad consortium of five community colleges working together to support manufacturing training in the region.

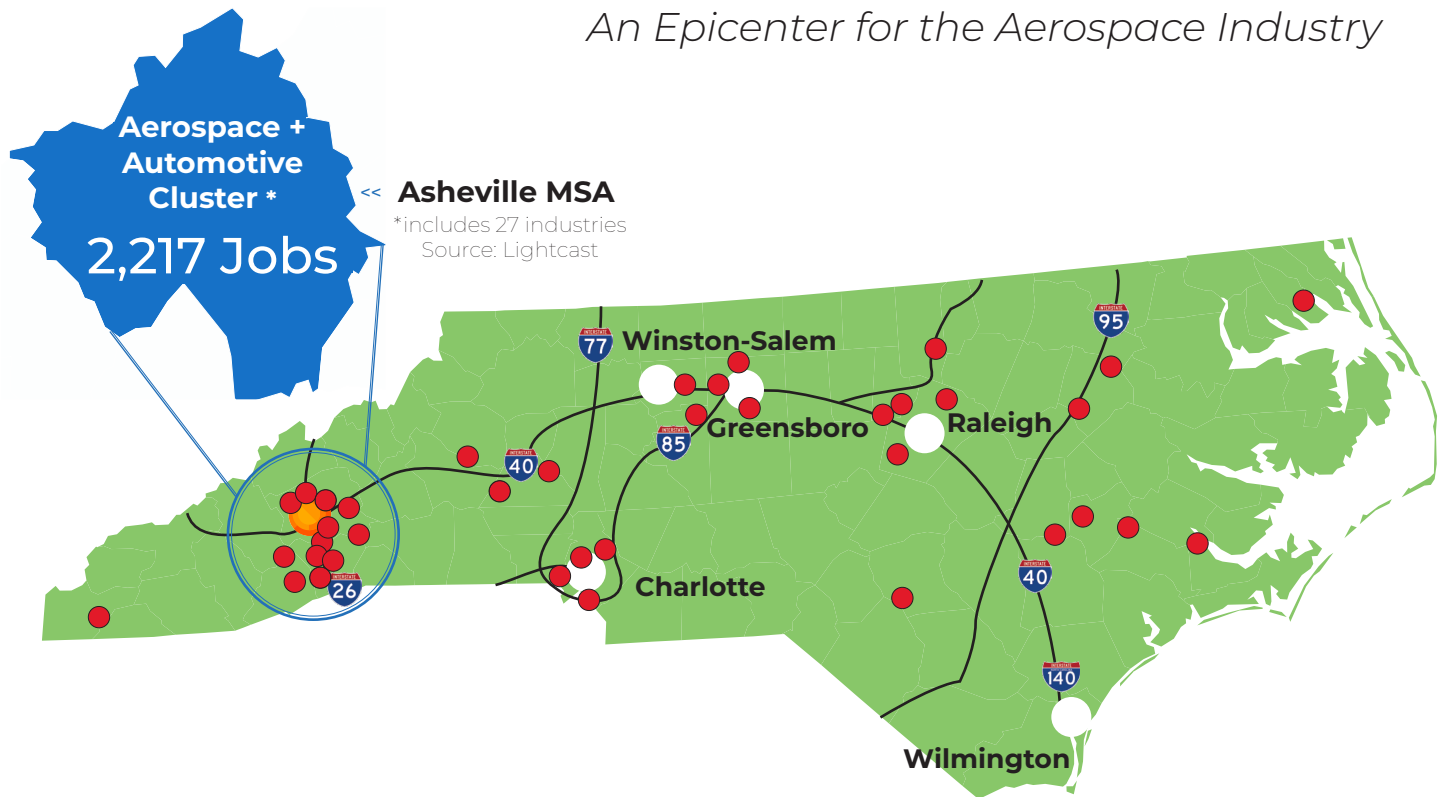


▲ Photography: Courtesy of GE



ASHEVILLE NORTH CAROLINA

An Epicenter for the Aerospace Industry



AEROSPACE MANUFACTURERS IN NORTH CAROLINA

Select companies include:

AVL Technologies*

BAE
Boeing
Boom
Cessna Aircraft
Curtiss-Wright Controls

Collins Aerospace

DRS Technologies

Firstmark Aerospace

GE Aerospace*

General Dynamics
GKN Driveline

Haeco Americas

Haynes International*

Honda Aircraft Co.
Honeywell Associates
Kearfott / Astronautics*
Kidde Aerospace & Defense

L3 Technologies

Lockheed Martin

LORD Corporation

Mills Manufacturing*

Moog Components Group
Palmer Wahl Instruments*

Pratt & Whitney*

Raytheon Technologies
Rolls-Royce Corp
Spirit Aerosystems, Inc.
Standard Aero

Survival Innovations*

TE Connectivity*

Telair U.S. Cargo Systems
VulcanAir
Vx Aerospace

ZF Chassis Components LLC

*** Asheville MSA Manufacturer**

MAJOR AEROSPACE EMPLOYERS IN THE METRO AREA



MILLS
MANUFACTURING

Mills Manufacturing is a global leader in manufacturing military parachute systems and components for over 75 years.



Established in 1994, AvL Technologies, Inc. specializes in the design, development, and production of mobile satellite antennas and positioner systems.



A division of Astronautics Corporation of America and a leader in the production of high precision guidance, navigation, and control applications. Kearfott's Motion Systems Division manufactures sophisticated precision rotary components, actuators, electronics, and stabilized sights in Asheville.



Photography: Courtesy of Pratt & Whitney



TE Connectivity designs and manufactures products at the heart of electronic connections for the automotive, aerospace, and defense industries. In 2013, the Asheville facility expanded by 90 new positions, investing in global production and engineering capabilities.



Palmer Wahl Instrumental Group is America's first manufacturer of precision industrial temperature and pressure instrumentation, founded in 1836.



Survival Innovations, LLC
Specializing in Human Protective Equipment

Survival Innovations LLC provides design and development services for customers in the aviation life support industry.

HAYNES
International

Haynes International is one of the world's largest developers, manufacturers, and distributors of high-performance nickel- and cobalt-based alloys for use in high-temperature and corrosion applications.

PRATT & WHITNEY EXPANDS AEROSPACE MANUFACTURING HUB IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA



January 28, 2025

Pratt & Whitney, a global leader in aerospace manufacturing and a division of RTX (NYSE: RTX), is solidifying Asheville's position as a hub for advanced aerospace innovation with a major expansion of its local operations. In January 2025, the company announced an additional \$285 million investment to grow its state-of-the-art turbine airfoil production facility in Buncombe County—building upon an initial \$650 million investment announced in 2020. This newest expansion will create 325 high-quality jobs, with an average salary of \$62,413, well above the county average of \$54,416.

The Asheville facility plays a critical role in producing high-tech turbine airfoils, essential components for next-generation jet engines including the GTF engine family powering the Airbus A320neo and the F135 engine used in the F-35 Lightning II fighter jet. These precision components reflect Asheville's capacity to support some of the most advanced technologies in the global aerospace sector.

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper, Sec. of Commerce Machel Sanders and local dignitaries joined Pratt & Whitney and Raytheon leadership for the official ribbon cutting at the company's Advanced Turbine Airfoil Manufacturing facility in South Buncombe County on November 16, 2022—a milestone moment that marked the facility's formal debut and regional significance.

Pratt & Whitney's continued investment reflects strong local partnerships and a robust workforce pipeline, supported by Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College and the Economic Development Coalition for Asheville-Buncombe County. With over \$20 million in new annual payroll and sustained investment in world-class technology, Asheville is proving itself a premier destination for aerospace manufacturing excellence.

Scan the QR Code to learn why GE Aerospace chose Asheville to produce their critical CMC components that will revolutionize the future of flight.



GE AEROSPACE 50 YEARS & GROWING



“Asheville and North Carolina continue our tradition of leading in aviation innovation. This significant investment represents our commitment to this community and its workforce.”

— Ryan James
Plant Leader at GE Aerospace, 2025

Photography: Courtesy of GE Aerospace

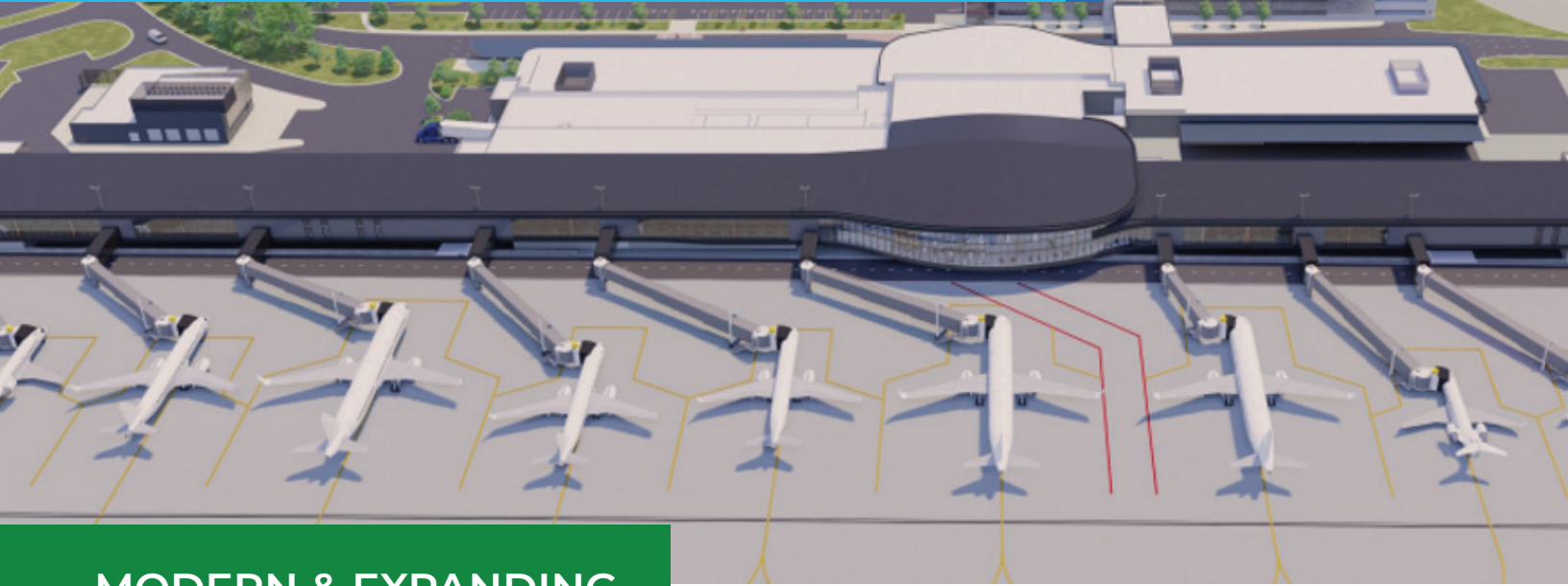
March 18, 2025

GE Aerospace has firmly established itself as a pillar of Asheville's thriving aerospace manufacturing sector. With a workforce of more than 400 employees, the Asheville facility plays a critical role in GE's global supply chain and technological innovation pipeline. As a world-leading provider of jet and turboprop engines, components, and integrated systems for commercial and military aircraft, GE Aerospace continues to demonstrate its long-term commitment to the region.

In recent years, GE Aerospace has made transformative investments in its Asheville operations, totaling \$230 million between 2013 and 2018. These strategic investments established Asheville as the company's regional center for manufacturing Ceramic Matrix Composites (CMCs)—a material used to replace metal components in jet engines. As part of its continued growth, GE Aerospace is again reinvesting in North Carolina, with a portion of a broader \$101 million statewide expansion directly benefiting the Asheville facility.

This latest initiative strengthens the company's local manufacturing capabilities, introduces cutting-edge technologies, and supports the long-term evolution of the aviation industry from right here in Western North Carolina. GE's ongoing investment reflects the depth of talent, infrastructure, and innovation found in the Asheville region—positioning it as a leader in advanced materials and aerospace manufacturing. With global impact and local roots, GE Aerospace exemplifies the strength and potential of Asheville's aerospace ecosystem.

MAJOR AIRPORT TERMINAL EXPANSION UNDERWAY



MODERN & EXPANDING INFRASTRUCTURE

- New runway completed in 2020, opening new aeronautical development opportunities on the west side of the airfield.
- Runway length - 8,001 ft.
- Significant customer parking added in the past 5 years, including a 1,300 space parking garage and a 300+ space remote shuttle lot. A second parking garage is currently in design.
- New \$418 Million airport terminal and tower under construction. The new terminal will be twice the size of the current airport, with 12 gates, expanded tenant space and more aircraft parking to accommodate current and future growth.

GRAND LOBBY



>> CONNECTED

The Asheville Regional Airport is accessible to:

Downtown Asheville - 15 miles

Greenville, SC - 48 miles

Inland Port Greer - 51 miles

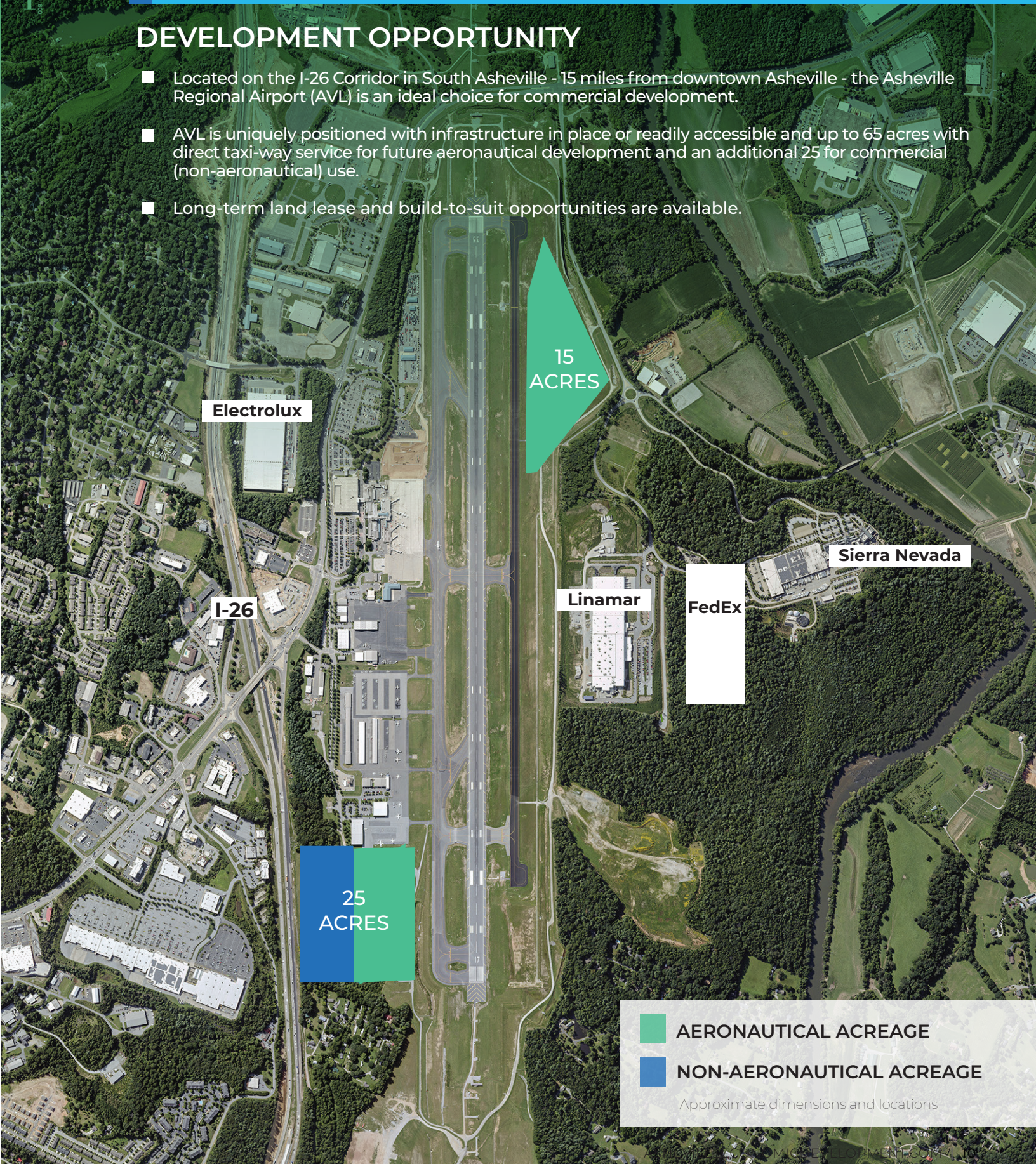
Charlotte Inland Port - 107 miles

Port of Charleston - 253 miles

PRIME AERONAUTICAL SITES ASHEVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT

DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

- Located on the I-26 Corridor in South Asheville - 15 miles from downtown Asheville - the Asheville Regional Airport (AVL) is an ideal choice for commercial development.
- AVL is uniquely positioned with infrastructure in place or readily accessible and up to 65 acres with direct taxi-way service for future aeronautical development and an additional 25 for commercial (non-aeronautical) use.
- Long-term land lease and build-to-suit opportunities are available.



NONSTOP FLIGHTS



Served by 5 National Airlines

American, Delta, United, Allegiant, and JetBlue

27 NONSTOP FLIGHTS

- Easy domestic and international air access
- Frequent daily flights, including to eight international hubs
- 27 nonstop destinations and over 80 flights per day

*Subject to change;
new flights will continue to be announced*

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



Accredited Economic Development Organization

The Economic Development Coalition (EDC) for Asheville-Buncombe County is a public-private partnership committed to creating and retaining high quality jobs, community leadership, and being a resource for better business decisions. The EDC accomplishes this mission through its four core services: Business Retention and Expansion, Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Research, and Marketing and Recruitment.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES: US BEA, US Census Bureau, US DOT, NC Department of Commerce, Lightcast, Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority

PLEASE CONTACT US

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AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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