

ASHEVILLE METRO AREA



AEROSPACE

INDUSTRY



Over 570 companies manufacture products in the three-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)

↑ **65%**

Asheville MSA

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

ASHEVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT (AVL)



TOP-100 BUSIEST
airport in the U.S.



57% INCREASE
in annual passenger traffic
from 2021-2025



59 ACRES
available for development at the AVL Airport

AS OF JANUARY 1, 2026, NORTH CAROLINA CURRENTLY HAS THE
LOWEST CORPORATE INCOME TAX RATE IN THE COUNTRY AT **2.0%**

300+

Aerospace Suppliers

300+ aerospace manufacturers supported by supply chain partners with specialties in machinery, textiles, chemicals, and avionics for aircraft manufacturing. It's why they purchase over 94% of aircraft parts and products within the region.

— ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP OF NORTH CAROLINA, 2026



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

POPULATION AGE 25+ WITH ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE OR HIGHER

61%

Asheville City

51%

Asheville MSA

46%

North Carolina

45%

United States

UNIVERSITY FACTS

ASHEVILLE MSA

Enrollment 2023: 15,199

Completions 2024: 3,861
(All completions & programs;)

UNIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTS

A-B Technical Community College

Blue Ridge Community College

Haywood Community College

Mars Hill University

Montreat College

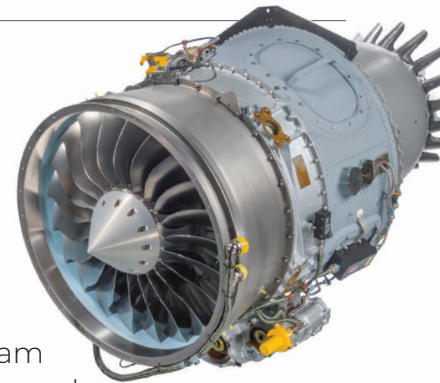
University of North Carolina at Asheville

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

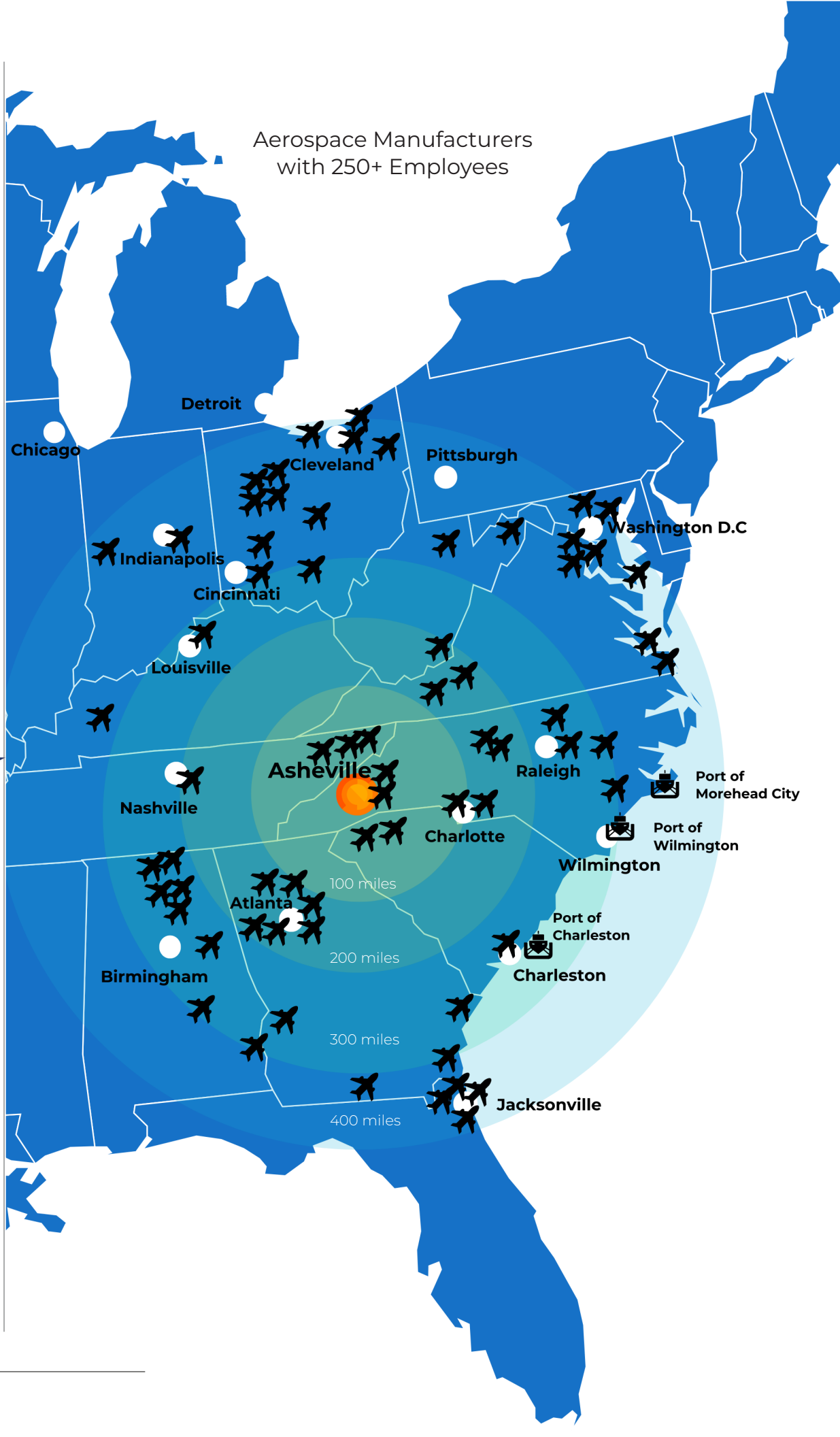
There is a broad consortium of five community colleges working together to support manufacturing training in the region.



^ Photography: Courtesy of GE

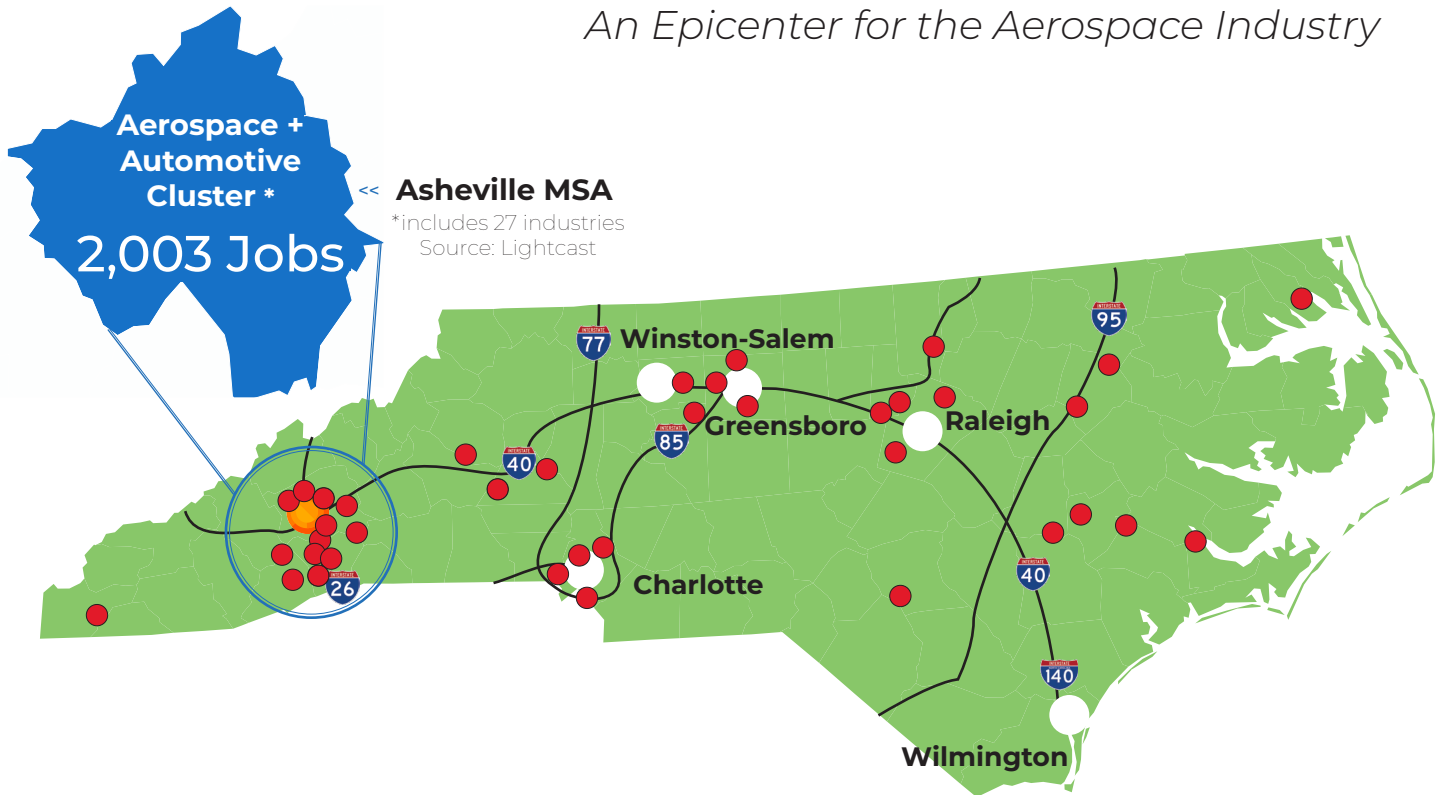


Aerospace Manufacturers with 250+ Employees



ASHEVILLE NORTH CAROLINA

An Epicenter for the Aerospace Industry



AEROSPACE MANUFACTURERS IN NORTH CAROLINA

Select companies include:

AVL Technologies*

BAE
Boeing
Boom

Carolina Metals Inc.*

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
JetZero

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

Unison Engine Components Inc.*

VulcanAir
Vx Aerospace
ZF Chassis Components LLC

* Asheville MSA Manufacturer

MAJOR AEROSPACE EMPLOYERS IN THE METRO AREA



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 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 PRODUCTION IN WNC



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 are building the future of flight today. This significant investment shows we are all in on U.S. manufacturing, our customers and North Carolina”
— Kirk Ritchie & Seth Sanert
Site Leaders at GE Aerospace, 2026

Photography: Courtesy of GE Aerospace

March 9, 2026

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, including nearly \$48 million at its Asheville facility as part of a broader \$1 billion U.S. manufacturing investment in 2026.

Across North Carolina, GE Aerospace is investing more than \$160 million in 2026, building on more than \$300 million announced statewide over the past three years. 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 northeast and southwest side of the airfield.
- Runway length - 8,001 ft
- Investment in parking infrastructure is continuing, with a third remote surface lot under construction. When completed, the public parking options will expand to 4,000+ spaces located in a five-level garage, close-to-terminal surface lots and three remote shuttle lots. A second parking garage is in a conceptual design phase.
- A new passenger airport terminal is more than 50% completed, with a new north concourse, ticketing and baggage claim now open. When completed in early 2028, the \$400M+ terminal will be 200% larger than the original airport, with a capacity to serve 4 million annual passengers and larger aircraft.
- A new \$50 million air traffic control tower is now completed.



GRAND LOBBY



» CONNECTED

The Asheville Regional Airport is accessible to:

Downtown Asheville - 15 miles

Greenville, SC - 48 miles

Inland Port Greer - 51 miles

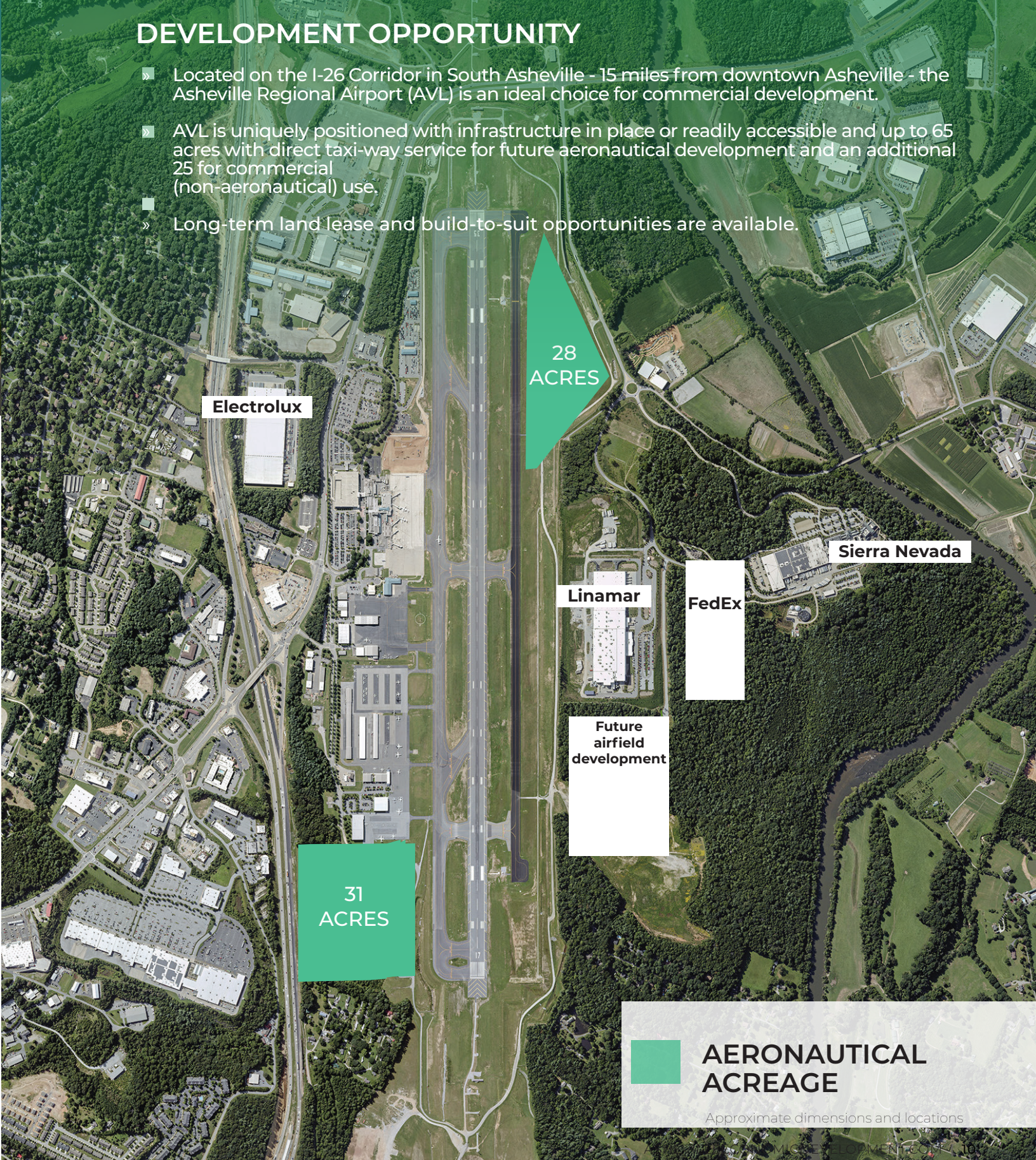
Charlotte Inland Port - 107 miles

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.



Electrolux

**28
ACRES**

Sierra Nevada

Linamar

FedEx

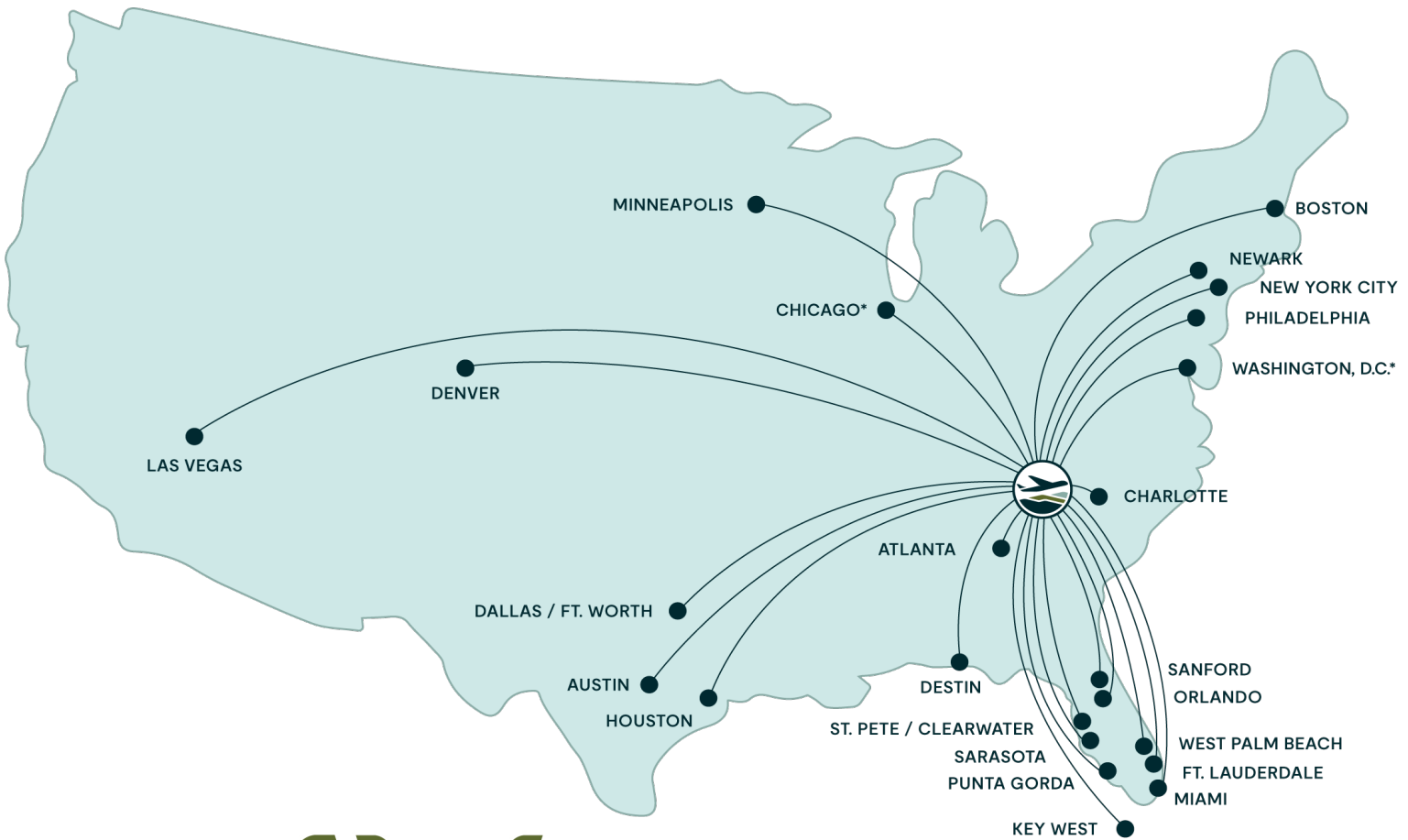
**Future
airfield
development**

**31
ACRES**

**AERONAUTICAL
ACREAGE**

Approximate dimensions and locations

NONSTOP FLIGHTS



26 NONSTOP FLIGHTS

* MULTIPLE AIRPORT DESTINATIONS

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

Serviced by 5 National Airlines

American, Delta, United, Allegiant, and SunCountry

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



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, WLOS-TV

PLEASE CONTACT US

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ECONOMICDEVELOPMENTASHEVILLE.ORG

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