

WHY DOES EVERY SHUTTLE ENGINE SPEND 8 MINUTES IN MISSISSIPPI BEFORE IT SPENDS WEEKS IN SPACE?



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How high is the aviation industry flying in Mississippi?

Mississippi actually has a long history of success in aviation and avionics manufacturing - and the sky is the limit. In fact, the state's Gulf Coast region has one of the highest concentrations of avionics and aircraft maintenance personnel among the nation's mid-sized metropolitan markets.

Past success has rewarded the state with an impressive infrastructure primed for growth, as evidenced by Rolls-Royce's recent decision to choose a Mississippi site to replace its outdoor engine-testing facility in central England - this in addition to the company's new machining center at its Propeller Center of Excellence in Pascagoula.

Between Rolls-Royce, Stennis Space Center in Bay St. Louis, Lockheed Martin in Meridian, American Eurocopter in Columbus, Chevron/Texaco's helicopter maintenance center in Picayune, and Keesler AFB in Biloxi, the state has a broad labor base full of the specialized employees that such businesses require. And with comprehensive programs at Mississippi State University in Starkville and the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, the state has an educational structure in place to produce even more.

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