

*Special Edition*

# Florida Flyer

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## Melbourne International Airport

### INSIDE

2

**MLB's Facilities and  
Economic Development**

3

**Business and Industrial  
Park**

**Cargo Handling**

4

**Embraer**

5

**Florida Tech Research  
Park**

6

**Northrop Grumman**

7

**MidairUSA**

8

**Richard A. Ennis, CFPO,  
Executive Director**

**Melbourne Airport  
Authority**



Courtesy of CBR Public Relations

*Four of the top 10 employers in Brevard County operate at Melbourne International Airport.*

**Melbourne International Airport (MLB)** is responsible for generating more than \$1 billion per year in economic activity. It is among the nation's fastest-growing aviation manufacturing and maintenance hubs, and is the closest international airport to Port Canaveral, one of the world's busiest cruise ports.

Located on 2,800 acres in southern Brevard County on Florida's east coast, the airport serves east central Florida, including Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie, and Martin counties.

Melbourne International Airport is proud of its role as an economic engine and jobs provider for Melbourne and the Space Coast. The airport has played a crucial role in the region's economic transition following the retirement of the Space Shuttle program in 2011.

*This special edition of the Florida Flyer focuses on Melbourne International Airport and its recent economic development.*

# MLB's Facilities

Melbourne International Airport operates **three runways, seven jetways, and eight gates**. The main runway, 9R/27L, is 10,181 feet long, and its associated taxiways and ramp are adequate to handle the Boeing 747 or L-1011 wide-body commercial jets, as well as large cargo aircraft such as the C-5, C-17, Antonov 124, and Antonov 225.

**Two full-service FBOs** offer fuel, flight planning, charter flights, and aircraft cleaning, as well as aircraft maintenance, repairs, and modifications, and much more. Melbourne International Airport is one of the nation's busiest airports for general aviation operations, ranking 21st\* nationwide with nearly 158,000 takeoffs and landings in 2012.

With a **200,000-square-foot terminal** designed to handle two million passengers annually, the airport currently serves Delta Air Lines and its affiliates, US Airways and Baer Air. Melbourne International Airport is home to more than 75 tenant businesses including Northrop Grumman, Embraer, General Electric, Rockwell Collins, LiveTV, and Harris Corporation.

Modes of transportation available at the airport include a Greyhound bus station, taxi-limo-shuttle service, Space Coast Area Transit bus service, several rental-car agencies, and a proposed Amtrak rail station.

Melbourne International Airport is now constructing a **78,000-square-foot cargo facility/hangar** capable of holding wide-body aircraft and equipment. The airport will also make improvements to the existing cargo facility parking lot because all parking to support the new hangar will be at the existing cargo facility. Construction will be completed in several months and will cost approximately \$8.5 million.

Learn more about Melbourne International Airport at [www.mlair.com](http://www.mlair.com). ♦

\*Source: 2012 General Aviation Statistical Data Book & Industry Outlook.

## From Gloomy Predictions to Flourishing Economy

“By 2008, it was clear that NASA’s storied shuttle program was coming to an end. In the view of many economists, retiring the shuttle fleet would lead to unemployment rates topping 13 percent on the Space Coast and the flight of a high-tech labor force second to none.

“At Melbourne International Airport, we understood we would need to step up as a major employment hub to provide jobs for out-of-work engineers, avionics experts and skilled tradesmen. It began with an all-out effort to lure the world’s third-largest aircraft manufacturer to our airport. Embraer was looking to build its first North American assembly facility, and our airport beat out competitors from four other states to land the coveted project.

“Embraer’s decision to build its Phenom executive jet assembly facility and customer center at Melbourne International created 200 much-needed jobs. More importantly, it sparked an astounding economic development run at the airport that continues to expand six years later.

“We have worked with state and community partners to bring in commitments for more than 2,000 new, high-paying jobs and capital investments nearing \$200 million. Melbourne International is now one of the world’s fastest-growing aviation and aerospace manufacturing and maintenance hubs. As dire as the situation looked in the midst of the Great Recession, today we can say we played a major role in preserving and refining the Space Coast’s work force and economy.”

*Richard H. Cloutier, A.A.E.  
Deputy Director of Aviation  
Melbourne International Airport*

## An Economic Powerhouse

“We offer the ideal location to retain and attract a highly skilled workforce and a genuine business-first attitude that includes assistance with permitting processes,” says Richard A. Ennis, airport Executive Director. “We have major airfield infrastructure in place for rapid development.”

**Melbourne International Airport ranks as one of Brevard County’s top employment centers.** Approximately 6,000 people work at the airport, including employees of Airport Industrial Park tenants. Recent additions to the tenant family will add nearly 1,000 new, high-paying jobs at the airport.

Airport tenants range from small but nationally respected shops, such as Southeast Aerospace, to corporate giants, such as Harris Corporation, which employs nearly 6,400 people at the airport and throughout the county.

**The airport’s total economic activity is more than \$1 billion annually.** This economic impact includes the airport’s economic activity as well as the impact of tenants and businesses located on airport property.

Aviation and aeronautics manufacturing is the airport’s fastest-growing segment, with three aircraft manufacturers on site, including Embraer, the world’s largest manufacturer of jet aircraft that carry up to 120 passengers. This manufacturing cluster has made the airport one of the major centers of aviation commerce in the United States. Two major aviation maintenance and repair operations are joining the airport’s tenant family: Brazilian aviation engineering company Archo Solutions Engineering USA, AAR Airlift Group; and aviation maintenance company MidairUSA, whose parent company Midair S.A. operates worldwide.

# Business and Industrial Park

Melbourne International Airport is home to an expansive industrial park that includes Florida Tech Research Park and several internationally known aerospace and aviation technology companies, including Harris Corporation, Northrop Grumman, Rockwell Collins, DRS, L-3 Communications, Embraer, General Electric, and JetBlue's LiveTV.

More than 6,000 tenant employees make this world-class business and industrial park a pivotal employment hub and a major economic contributor to Brevard County and Florida's Space Coast.

The park currently has more than 130 acres of office, commercial, and mixed-used property, all approved for immediate development with infrastructure and approved zoning already in place. The parcels, ranging in size from 4 acres to nearly 30 acres, are well-located along major, high-traffic corridors.

The industrial park is part of a complete, multi-modal transportation network that includes road, rail, air, sea, and space access, as follows:

- The airport is at the hub of a four-lane, primary highway network less

than five miles from Interstate 95.

- A Florida East Coast Railway line runs along the airport's eastern boundary.
- Port Canaveral, 25 miles north of the airport, offers full cargo services, including ocean-going containers. It is the second busiest cruise port in the world.
- Kennedy Space Center, adjacent to Port Canaveral, is a major center for the nascent commercial space industry.

One of the Airport Industrial Park's early tenants was Radiation Incorporated, which was formed in 1950 by two Melbourne businessmen. Radiation Incorporated manufactured advanced electronics for military communications, weather satellites, and missile systems. Radiation was acquired by Harris Corporation in 1967 and became the foundation for Harris Corporation's government systems and semiconductor businesses. Harris Corporation moved its world headquarters to Melbourne International Airport in the late 1970s. ♦

## Cargo Handling

Melbourne International Airport is equipped to handle almost any type of cargo. Efficient loading and unloading operations are made possible by the availability of the airport's specialized K-loaders, which are mobile, heavy-duty scissor lifts that raise a platform to the height of aircraft cargo doors.

On-site tenants, including specialty mover Yowell International and airline partners, are available for delivery and distribution services.

The airport is less than 30 miles from one of the busiest sea ports in the country, Port Canaveral. It is located near Florida's two major north-south roadways, Interstate 95 and U.S. Highway 1, providing easy access to major markets.

Melbourne International Airport serves as the southern hub for Foreign Trade Zone 136, headquartered at Port Canaveral. Location within the Free Trade Zone helps cut costs, simplifies the customs process, and reduces transit times.



Left: World's largest cargo aircraft at Melbourne International Airport. Below: Aerial view of the airport.



Photographs courtesy of CBR Public Relations

## 85 Years

The Melbourne airport was established in 1929 on a field that was designated as a refueling site for the U.S. Postal Airmail service.

The airport served as Naval Air Station Melbourne during World War II, training more than 2,000 U.S. Navy and Marine pilots between 1942 and 1946. NAS Melbourne also housed more than 250 German POWs who worked mostly at the station's laundry and mess hall.

Melbourne Airport was deeded to the city in 1947 and operated as a municipal airport. Commercial service began with the arrival of Eastern Airlines in 1952. The airport became Melbourne International Airport in 1993.

# Embraer Builds a \$24 Million Engineering Center and Adds New Assembly Operations

**B**razilian aviation giant Embraer, the world's third largest aircraft manufacturer, is adding a \$24 million engineering center to its operations at Melbourne International Airport. Embraer also plans to assemble its new line of business jets at Melbourne International Airport, effectively doubling the size of its operations here.

The airport is already home to Embraer's only North American aircraft assembly facility and global customer center.

## Engineering center

Embraer's new operations at the airport will grow to include work related to the design, certification, and production of the company's aircraft.

"This new engineering center solidifies Embraer's presence on the Space Coast and continues the momentum to make Melbourne International Airport the hub of Embraer's North American operations," said Richard A. Ennis, airport Executive Director.

The 63,500-square-foot Engineering and Technology Center is being built on a 13.2-acre site on the north side of General Aviation Drive at a cost of \$24,205,000, including construction and equipment. When fully operational, the center is expected to employ 200 people with an average salary of \$70,000.

"This new facility will create the right jobs at the right time," Ennis said. "These are aerospace engineering jobs, and there is no question that Embraer is acting now to tap into the talent pool idled by the end of NASA's shuttle program."

A team of Florida and Space Coast officials aggressively pursued Embraer



Courtesy of CBR Public Relations

*Embraer Phenom 100 executive jet. Embraer assembles Phenom 100s and Phenom 300s at Melbourne International Airport.*

to land the engineering center and put together an impressive incentive package over the course of about six months.

Incentives offered by the airport include renovating and making available a temporary facility at the airport rent free for up to 18 months while the new engineering center is being constructed. Renovations to the 25,000-square-foot building formerly used by Northrop Grumman will cost about \$240,000. The incentives were offered so that Embraer can expedite its hiring of engineering staff.

## New assembly operations

After beginning construction on the new engineering center, Embraer announced plans to add another assembly facility to its operations at Melbourne International Airport. Embraer's new assembly operations for the twin-engine Legacy 500/450 business jets will add 250,000 square feet to its airport campus.

The Legacy aircraft will be FAA certified some time this year, said Embraer President and CEO Frederico Curado. He predicted the aircraft will be the "best in class" just like the Phenom 100 and Phenom 300 executive jets assembled in Melbourne.

Curado said Embraer's expansion reflects the company's long-term commitment to the U.S., Florida, and Melbourne. "Some 50 percent of our executive jet deliveries go to the U.S. and more than 60 percent of the aircraft content comes from U.S. suppliers and industrial partners, so this is a natural step forward to the benefit of our customers," he said.

## Hundreds more jobs

Embraer currently employs about 260 people at the airport in its Phenom assembly plant and Embraer's worldwide customer center. The Engineering and Technology Center, set to open this year, is expected to employ 200, and the new Legacy assembly facility is expected to employ 600 people.

The new Engineering and Technology Center and the Legacy assembly facility strengthen the airport's position as a major economic engine for the Space Coast. With the expanded Embraer operations, the airport will have participated in providing the location for more than 1,000 jobs to the region in recent years, with combined annual salaries of more than \$60 million and capital investments in new construction topping \$125 million. ♦

Source: CBR Public Relations, (407) 834-7777 or [www.cbrpr.com](http://www.cbrpr.com).

# Florida Tech Research Park Responds to Needs of Industry

The Florida Tech Research Park (FTRP), a partnership of Florida Institute of Technology and Melbourne International Airport, held its grand opening on April 26, 2013, at its new location. The research park, a self-sustaining innovation center, focuses on facilitating the creation, integration, and application of technology for the region.

## Innovation center

Located in the Center for Aeronautics and Innovation Building on NASA Boulevard, the research park is the largest of its kind located at an FAA-approved airport and is a self-sustaining innovation center. This intermodal hub is a conduit for an inflow of ideas, talent, and resources from its partner networks and gives rise to an outflow that creates diversity, sustained markets, and economic growth for the region. The research park was established to assist in the ongoing diversification of the economic base of Florida's Space Coast and the state of Florida as a whole, by encouraging the growth of research-based industry and by providing opportunities for research interaction between Florida Institute of Technology and industry.

Site incentives are in place for prime office and research space as well as available build-to-suit sites for immediate development. The FTRP's first phase of 100 acres, envisions 10 major buildings offering up to 600,000 square feet of office/research space and as many as 3,000 jobs. Future phases offer an additional 500 acres of developable land and could boost space to more than one million square feet and as many as 10,000 jobs.

The park is located in Foreign Trade Zone No. 136, which can offer



Photographs courtesy of FIT

significant savings to companies that import and export products. The complex offers access to a skilled workforce and the prestige of being part of a research complex associated with a national research university and its resources, access to the pool of knowledge the Space Coast offers, and the business-friendly climate of Melbourne.

## Partnership

The research park partnership is the brainchild of Florida Tech President and CEO Anthony J. Catanese. Under the leadership of former astronaut Captain Winston Scott, the research park began as an extension of the university's relationship with Melbourne International Airport and includes FIT Aviation, the university's growing flight training arm that serves clients from around the world. Tenant and aerospace supplier, Archo Solutions Engineering USA, will open



Clockwise, from top left: The Florida Tech Research Park is headquartered at the university's Center for Aeronautics and Innovation; FIT Aviation, also located at the airport, serves the pilot training needs of international clients; Winston Scott, former astronaut and Florida Tech Senior Vice President for External Relations and Economic Development, oversees the research park.

its first U.S. facility in the Florida Tech Research Park as the Brazilian-based company seeks to tap into American commercial and executive jet markets. C2C Development, bringing innovative medical devices from concept to commercialization, recently moved to newly renovated space in the park. Revolution Technologies, a prime contractor for the FAA supporting air transportation projects, occupies their new corporate headquarters which opened in May 2013.

In an enterprise that combines research, science, and technology, Florida Institute of Technology has become an innovation, development, and economic growth partner with community businesses in Melbourne through the Florida Tech Research Park (FTRP).

For more information, email [ftp@fit.edu](mailto:ftp@fit.edu) or call (321) 674-8742 or visit [www.fit.edu/researchpark](http://www.fit.edu/researchpark). ♦

Source: Florida Institute of Technology.

# Northrop Grumman Builds Manned Aircraft Design Center of Excellence

Northrop Grumman Corporation broke ground in September 2013 on a new 220,000-square-foot building at its current campus adjacent to Melbourne International Airport. The new building, Northrop Grumman's Manned Aircraft Design Center of Excellence, will accommodate program management and engineering teams, as well as integration laboratories.

Governor Rick Scott, U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, and other leaders participated in the dedication of the new center of excellence in Melbourne in September. The building is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2014.

## Adding 1,000 employees

The company employs more than 1,200 people in Melbourne, and estimates growing by an additional 1,000 employees over the next four years as a result of the designation of the site as a center of excellence.

Northrop Grumman's Melbourne center is one of several centers of excellence the company is creating around the country. These centers of excellence will focus on manned and unmanned aircraft design and development, aircraft integration and manufacturing, and electronic attack to strategically align its businesses with its customers' need for continued innovative and affordable products, services, and solutions to support their missions.

"We continuously examine our operational capacity to determine how we can leverage it in the most effective, efficient and affordable manner," says Jacqueline Farrell, Public Relations, Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems. "By designating these centers of excellence, we bring our company's best capabilities in each designated area to a common facility, enabling lower operating costs, increased collaboration across our workforce, alignment of complementary skills and talents among our teams, greater interaction and opportunities for



Courtesy of Northrop Grumman



Courtesy of CBR Public Relations

Top: Artist rendering, subject to change, of Northrop Grumman's Manned Aircraft Design Center of Excellence in Melbourne.

Above: E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS) aircraft. The JSTARS airborne radar system is produced by Northrop Grumman.

innovative approaches."

## Leading global security company

Northrop Grumman is a leading global security company providing innovative systems, products, and solutions in unmanned systems, cyber, C4ISR,\*

\*Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance

and logistics, and modernization to government and commercial customers worldwide.

For more information about Northrop Grumman, see [www.northropgrumman.com](http://www.northropgrumman.com). ♦

Source: Northrop Grumman Corporation. Contact: Jacqueline Farrell, (321) 951-5889 (office), (321) 480-8356 (mobile), or [jacqueline.farrell@ngc.com](mailto:jacqueline.farrell@ngc.com).

# MidairUSA's Maintenance and Engineering Complex

Melbourne International Airport added another star to its lineup with the grand opening in May 2013 of MidairUSA's Maintenance and Engineering complex.

MidairUSA brings a significant maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) presence to the airport's aviation and aerospace base. The company is building hangar facilities designed to retrofit the Boeing 747, one of aviation history's most reliable and recognizable aircraft. The first of two hangars is now under construction; the second hangar will be built in 2015.

## Hangar project underway

This expansive 82,000-square-foot hangar project underway will accommodate most commercial-sized aircraft. With the addition of the mezzanines, the total usable space increases to 102,000 square feet. The office complex will house administration, sales, planning, and engineering, and the production area will be used as a back shop area to support parts fabrication and component repairs/overhauls. To accommodate the needs of customers as well as internal use and parts sales, an onsite warehouse will be maintained to stock a large inventory and assortment of parts. This single wide-body facility will increase the ability to serve existing customers and invite new opportunities. Simultaneous to the creation of incremental new jobs to the region, the increased complex lends to the company's desire to meet a planned growth schedule and delivery of services.

MidairUSA, Inc. is an FAA Part 145 European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), BDCA (Bermuda Department of Civil Aviation) certified repair station. Incorporated in 2007 by President William V. Moore, MidairUSA, Inc. continues to lead as a full-service MRO. Products and services include heavy checks, maintenance, interior and cabin modifications, parts fabrication, avionics

*Right: Artist rendering of MidairUSA's Maintenance and Engineering Complex.*

*Below: A panoramic view of construction in early 2014.*

upgrades, engineering support, graphic designs, placards, and painting.

The incorporation of MidairUSA, Inc. in 2007 included the establishment of MRO services at the Rome, New York facility where William Moore began his vision offering full aircraft maintenance repair, modifications, and solutions. In conjunction with the Melbourne, Florida expansion of hangars and services, the Rome, New York facility continues to offer the entire spectrum of maintenance operations and solutions, supported by two maintenance hangars with the capacity to serve up to B747-8 aircraft.

## Inflight communications

MidairUSA, Inc. is a recognized leader in the installation of inflight broadband connectivity services of aircraft. With the delivery on New Year's Day 2014 of Transaero Airlines Boeing 747-400 EI-XLM, MidairUSA, Inc. delivered the tenth installation of the Panasonic Global Communications Suite (GCS). This state-of-the-art communications provides inflight passengers full broadband connectivity to include complete internet and mobile cellular services, live and uninterrupted television programming, as well as all electronic



Courtesy of MidairUSA



Courtesy of MidairUSA

communication devices to access social media, news, banking services, and entertainment.

"MidairUSA is committed to creating a significant local workforce that will strengthen the airport's growing aviation cluster," said airport Executive Director Richard A. Ennis. "The opening of the MidairUSA complex represents another important step in the evolution of the Space Coast since the retirement of NASA's shuttle program."

For more information, go to [www.MLBair.com/EconomicOpportunities.aspx](http://www.MLBair.com/EconomicOpportunities.aspx) or call Melbourne International Airport at (321) 723-6227 ext. 211. ♦

Source: MidairUSA (Tammy Burkhart, Director of Public Relations, (315) 338-7920 or [tb@midairusainc.com](mailto:tb@midairusainc.com)); and CBR Public Relations, (407) 834-7777 or [www.cbrpr.com](http://www.cbrpr.com).

# MLB Leadership Provides Vision, Dynamic Plan

## Richard A. Ennis, CPFO Executive Director

Richard A. Ennis, CPFO, is Executive Director of Melbourne International Airport. Ennis joined the airport in 1992 as Manager of Finance and Administration, and was named Executive Director in 2005. As Executive Director, Ennis has spearheaded significant growth in airport development, flight services, and passenger traffic. The airport has garnered an \$800,000 federal Small Community Air Service Development Program grant and landed new airlines and major industrial-park tenants.

Much of the airport's success in recent years is attributed to his vision, perseverance, and economic development expertise, as well as his strong partnership with the Melbourne Airport Authority Board.

Ennis is a Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO) and a member of the Government Finance Officers Association and the American Association of Airline Executives. He served in the

U.S. Air Force, and earned a bachelor's degree in accounting at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida, and a bachelor's degree in forestry at the University of Florida. Prior to joining the airport staff, he was Assistant Finance Director for the city of Melbourne.

Ennis announced recently that he will soon be retiring. The aviation community wishes him well in his next endeavors. ♦



Courtesy of CBR Public Relations

Richard A. Ennis

## Melbourne Airport Authority

The Melbourne Airport Authority was established by ordinance on May 2, 1967, to plan, operate, maintain, and develop what would later become Melbourne International Airport. The authority is charged with the airport's fiduciary and oversight responsibilities.

The authority's seven-member board is appointed, and each board member serves a two-year term. Terms are staggered and representation is intended to reflect a variety of interests served by the airport.

Three of the board members are appointed from the Melbourne City Council. The city's Chamber of Commerce and tenants of the Airport Industrial Park appoint one member each. Two members are selected by the remainder of the board. The board meets once a month. ♦

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