



ANCHOR TENANTS - BIG BUSINESS AT FLORIDA AIRPORTS

At many of Florida's larger airports, there is a wide array of services, facilities, and tenants on the airport. While smaller airports also have their own unique blend of services and tenants, many of these smaller airports often have one or two major anchor tenants that drive economic development and growth. An anchor tenant is a large tenant that drives much of the economic development and growth potential at an airport. Larger airports can have anchor tenants as well, but are less reliant on them as one of the few sources, if not the primary source, of revenue for the airport. Anchor tenants come in many shapes and sizes and offer a variety of services to the aviation community in Florida and around the world.

Lake City Gateway Airport - Little Airport, Big Time MRO

Located in north Florida near the junction of I-10 and I-75, Lake City Gateway Airport is home to HAECO, a maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) provider with four major locations in the U.S. At their Lake City Gateway location, HAECO provides airframe services and a strip-and-paint shop. HAECO's Lake City facilities include over 600,000 square feet of covered hangars, 1.3 million square feet in ramp area, six MRO hangars, a paint hangar, and they even pay for and maintain the airport's air traffic control tower. HAECO's 2016 expansion resulted in the addition of over 400 new high-skill, high-paying jobs. A partnership between the Columbia County School District, HAECO Americas, the Northeast Florida Education Consortium, and the City of Lake City (owner and operator of Lake City Gateway) recently resulted in the creation of the North Florida Aviation Academy which helps train a workforce for HAECO or for any similar company across the country.



Pompano Beach Airpark - Home of the Goodyear Blimp

With 120 based aircraft and almost 170,000 annual operations, Pompano Beach Airpark is Florida's 3rd busiest general aviation airport in terms of operations. Of those based aircraft, one is much larger than the others: the Goodyear Blimp. Goodyear has based one of their blimps at Pompano continuously since 1979. They currently lease a 32.5 acre parcel that includes a 45,000 square foot hangar and 3,500 square feet of office space. While the Goodyear Blimp is probably most famous for providing aerial coverage of large sporting events, it also has a history of providing crucial assistance during natural disasters. When Hurricane Andrew struck the state in 1992, the Goodyear Blimp was called upon to hover above Miami, displaying directions to relief supply stations on its external electronic message board.



Pensacola International Airport - Where Big Jets Go For Maintenance and Modification

Florida's 10th busiest commercial service airport in terms of passenger volume, Pensacola International Airport, has recently added a large anchor tenant. ST Engineering-Aerospace, an Alabama-based aircraft maintenance and modification provider, signed a lease with the airport to develop facilities. ST Engineering-Aerospace currently has 173,000 square feet of hangar space on 19 acres. Their hangar is large enough to fit two Boeing 777s, four Boeing 757s, and six Airbus 320s. The original estimates when ST Engineering-Aerospace signed their lease with Pensacola was that the development would create 400 new jobs, each paying between \$30,000 and \$58,000 per year. There are plans for an additional 775,000 square feet of facilities, including more hangars, a distribution warehouse, and an administration building. In mid-2018, Pensacola International Airport was awarded a \$56 million grant to expand the ST Engineering-Aerospace's facilities. This is expected to bring in up to 1,700 new jobs to the area.



Melbourne International Airport - A Brazilian Connection

In 2008 Melbourne International Airport, located on Florida’s Space Coast, became home to Brazilian jet maker Embraer’s new assembly plant. Embraer originally assembled only the Phenom 100 aircraft at Melbourne but that has since grown to include the Phenom 300, Legacy 450, and Legacy 500 business jets, in addition to the original Phenom 100. Embraer Executive Jets – the company’s business jet division – is now headquartered at Melbourne International Airport and employs nearly 850 people. While Melbourne International Airport had already been home to many large tenants, including major facilities for global aerospace companies such as Harris, Rockwell Collins, Northrop Grumman, and Florida Institute of Technology’s training aircraft fleet, Embraer brings yet another dimension to an airport that continues to shine as one of the State’s most preeminent examples of economic development.

Zephyrhills Municipal Airport - Skydiving Central

Located about 30 miles northeast of Tampa, Zephyrhills Municipal Airport is home to Skydive City, one of the most well known skydiving centers in the sport’s community. The center offers training and instruction for every level of skydiver, from beginners to seasoned veterans, and also supports all types of skydiving activity, including tandem jumps, group jumps, camera training, and even water landings. Skydive City regularly hosts major skydiving events, festivals, and competitions. The center reports that it accommodates approximately 70,000 jumps annually, performed by divers from 80 different countries and all 50 states. Skydive City’s activities also support a small constellation of other skydiving-related companies at the airport, including a jumpsuit manufacturer, a skydiving equipment manufacturer, and a skydiving equipment retailer. With all of these resources, Skydive City has turned Zephyrhills Municipal Airport into one of the world’s premier skydiving destinations.

