



In 1974, The Aerospace Corporation established its presence in Houston, TX, marking a significant milestone in its mission to provide independent technical expertise and critical support to the nation's space programs. Situated near NASA's Johnson Space Center (JSC), the Houston office has become a vital hub where technology evaluations and development, modeling and simulation, and risk assessments converge with the innovative spirit of the region's aerospace community. By tapping into Houston's rich legacy of space exploration and its deep pool of engineering talent, Aerospace is well-positioned to support national security as well as commercial and civil space initiatives.

The Aerospace Corporation in Houston

Aerospace in Houston primarily focuses on providing independent technical expertise to support the development, assessment, and operation of space systems for both national security and civil space programs. This work encompasses systems engineering, risk analysis and mission assurance, ensuring the technologies and processes involved in spacecraft design and operations meet stringent safety and performance standards. The Houston Aerospace team collaborates closely with government agencies, commercial partners, and academic institutions to conduct critical reviews and independent assessments, to help validate mission concepts, and to ensure projects adhere to best practices in aerospace innovation and reliability.

In addition to technical evaluations and development, the team supports strategic planning, operational readiness, and leadership for a wide range of space missions. They are involved in the development of cutting-edge analytical tools and methodologies that address complex challenges such as orbital mechanics, system resilience, and technology integration. By partnering with local stakeholders—ranging from JSC to defense, commercial space, and security agencies—Aerospace plays an integral role in bolstering national capabilities and advancing the United States' leadership in space exploration and defense initiatives.

Houston and the Space Enterprise

The Houston area is a dynamic center for aerospace innovation and exploration, connecting cutting edge research with real-world mission operations. Other notable highlights in the region include:

- Houston Spaceport at Ellington Field: A commercial launch and landing site for suborbital, reusable launch vehicles and home to companies such as Axiom Space and Intuitive Machines, focused on space exploration and lunar technologies.
- Texas A&M University Space Institute (coming in 2026): Adjacent to JSC in Houston, this new 400,000-square-foot facility will be home to the world's largest indoor moon and Marscapes and will provide support for space science, applied research and development, as well as collaborations between academic, government, military, and commercial space entities.

Facts

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The Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center is NASA's premier facility for human spaceflight, established in 1961 as the Manned Spacecraft Center and renamed in 1973. It manages astronaut training, mission control for the International Space Station (ISS), and development of the Orion program.



Photo Credit: NASA

- **Robust Commercial Aerospace Ecosystem:** Houston is home to a rapidly growing cluster of commercial space enterprises and technology innovators, forging partnerships that accelerate advancements in space exploration and satellite operations.
- **Defense and Research Collaborations:** Proximity to regional military installations and defense contractors reinforces the region’s role in advancing national security objectives through joint research and mission support.
- **Technical and Support Excellence:** A network of world-class research institutions and engineering organizations underpins the collaborative spirit that drives innovation across the aerospace spectrum.

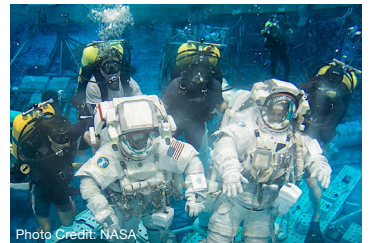


Photo Credit: NASA
Astronauts and divers training at NASA's Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory (NBL), a massive indoor pool used to simulate microgravity environments.

Commitment to Houston

Aerospace is an active member of the Houston community. Since 1974, Aerospace’s presence in the Houston area has grown to 176 employees and generates roughly \$40 million in annual economic activity for the region.

Houston has officially earned a spot among America’s top cities, ranking #15 in U.S. News & World Report’s 2025-2026 list of the “Best Places to Live for Quality of Life” based on education quality, health care access, air quality and other factors.

As the fourth largest city in the nation, Houston is an international city with a diverse culture and communities that span the globe. While offering all the amenities of other major American cities, Houston enjoys a significantly lower cost of living, provides some of the best school districts in the nation, and has no state income tax.



Aerospace Board of Trustees members Frank Calvelli and Jeffrey Grant touring the Johnson Space Center.

About The Aerospace Corporation

The Aerospace Corporation is the nation’s trusted partner solving the hardest problems in space. We leverage unparalleled technical depth to meet critical mission needs and design foundational architectures that secure U.S. leadership in space and keep the nation safe. Our national workforce of more than 4,800 employees provides objective technical expertise and data driven insights that drive mission success across space systems and space vehicles. For more information, visit www.aerospace.org.