

Aerospace Jobs Coming To Ohio

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Aircraft manufacturing giant Airbus announced a five year agreement with the National Composite Center in Kettering on Friday.

Officials said that hundreds of aerospace jobs will be created from this deal.

"It shows confidence in Ohio and confidence in our state expertise area in aerospace," said Christine Schmenk, Director of the Ohio Department of Development.

State leaders predict that hundreds of new jobs and new aerospace related companies will be on the way to Ohio with the new agreement.

"We are delighted to team with this area," said Allan McArtor, Chairman of Airbus Americas.

The deal is worth a \$1 million for the first year and potentially much more down the line, ONN's Lot Tan reported.

Four companies including Renegade Materials will be involved.

"This is an opportunity for us to demonstrate these technologies for use in commercial aircraft which creates sales, productions of materials and more importantly jobs," said Lara Gray, General Manager of Renegade Materials.

Renegade Materials currently employs 20 workers and is based in Springboro. Gray predicts that within five years, that number could grow up to 75.

Renegade Materials manufactures strong lightweight products for aircrafts, Tan reported.

"It reduces the weight of aircrafts and reduces fuel consumption that is critical for the economy and the environment," Gray said.

McArtor said that aerospace companies around the state will get financial and technical support from his company for developing new technologies.

"As they develop and demonstrate new materials and technology, we'll keep investing in it," McArtor said.

Friday's announcement came the same day as new December unemployment numbers dropped to 8.1 percent.

Senator Sherrod Brown believes that Ohio has turned the corner.

"Airbus buys \$4 billion worth of things in Ohio and that means 10,000 jobs could come with it," said Brown. "That number's going to grow with this investment today (Friday)."

Officials said that Ohio boasts more than 120,000 jobs in the aerospace industry.

From the desk of ONNtv.com