

AIRBUS PACKS HOUSE FOR SUPPLIER CONFERENCE

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Aerospace giant Airbus came to the Dayton area Tuesday on a mission to spend more money with Ohio companies.

Airbus Americas Chairman Allan McArtor said the state has done a good job of creating an environment for aerospace companies to thrive, making in an attractive place for Airbus to look for more buying opportunities.

"It's a great formula; if we could double our participation in Ohio we'd be happy as we could be," said McArtor, who was at the National Composite Center in Kettering for an Airbus supplier summit. In 2008, Airbus purchased nearly \$4 billion of supplies from Ohio businesses, ranking the state first for Airbus spending in the United States and fifth in the number of Airbus suppliers. More than 300 people attended the summit. It included individual meetings between companies and Airbus procurement officials.

"Ohio is one of the most important states to us," McArtor said. "We like the innovation, we like the suppliers, we like the attitude and the work ethic ... we've got a lot of big companies that already supply us, a lot of embryonic companies that want to become part of the aerospace supply chain." U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-OH, who helped organize the summit, and Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland were in attendance. The first Airbus supplier summit was held in Cleveland in December.

"This (summit) is about jobs, it's going to matter, it's already beginning to bear some fruit," Brown said.

Jim Leftwich, president and chief executive officer of the Dayton Development Coalition, said the event was a great opportunity to really showcase the strengths of the state in aerospace to Airbus. "Folks are excited and I think there's a lot that is going to come out of this," Leftwich said.

Airbus' European-based parent company, EADS, generated more than 42 billion euros in revenue last year.

From the desk of Joe Cogliano II