

CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP TO HELP GROW OHIO'S AEROSPACE INDUSTRY

US Fed News

October 29, 2009 Thursday 12:21 PM EST

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown and Airbus Americas Chairman Allan McArtor announced the formalization of a partnership between Airbus and Ohio suppliers aimed at growing Ohio's aerospace industry. They were joined by leaders from Ohio's aerospace and technology communities, including the Ohio Aerospace Institute and Ohio's Edison Technology Centers. These partners will co-host a set of procurement conferences to help facilitate more business between Ohio companies and Airbus.

"This is about building on Ohio's rich aerospace heritage to create new jobs," Brown said. "As Airbus looks for suppliers in North America, our message to them is that they don't need to look any further than Ohio. This is about formalizing our state's long-time relationship with Airbus and creating a structure that allows more Ohio companies to be considered for contracts."

"The State of Ohio ranks Number One out of the 40 States where Airbus spends procurement dollars. In 2008 alone, Airbus spent \$3.96 billion with Ohio direct suppliers who help build our aircraft. I have been in discussions with Senator Brown since his first days in office on ways to grow that relationship, and I'm excited about the partnership we are announcing today," said Allan McArtor, Chairman of Airbus North America.

Currently, there are more than 600 companies in Ohio's aerospace industry, accounting for more than 186,000 direct jobs. In total, more than 1,200 companies do business with the aerospace industry, according to the Ohio Aerospace Institute. Last year, Airbus spent \$3.96 billion procuring supplies from Ohio entities, ranking the state first for Airbus spending in the United States and fifth in the number of Airbus suppliers. This figure does not include indirect, subcontracts awarded to Ohio aerospace companies from direct Airbus suppliers.

Brown and McArtor announced today that they will be co-hosting two procurement conferences in Ohio. The expos, which are aimed at growing the state's aerospace industry by identifying new contract opportunities, will enable Ohio companies to meet one-on-one with representatives from Airbus.

IN THE NEWS

The first expo will be held on Monday, Dec. 7, 2009 at the Ohio Aerospace Institute (OAI). The second expo will be held in Southern Ohio during the first quarter of 2010. A date and location have not yet been determined.

Brown was joined today by Allan McArtor, Chairman Airbus Americas; Mike Heil, President & CEO, Ohio Aerospace Institute (OAI); Gary Conley, President, TechSolve; Frank Svet, President, Edison Materials Technology Center (EMTEC); Henry Cialone, President, Edison Welding Institute (EWI); Wayne Earley, President, PolymerOhio; and Dan Berry, President & CEO, MAGNET.

This is from the office of Senator Sherrod Brown