(https://adclick.g.doubleclick.net/pcs/click?xai=AKAOjst_n8YJA14s5mvrJf1enPcDLMPCuDlOrqqWxRWQ5wk--U9CGPAvvZu8SG6UuGR0pozPIYYpzEjRFRFEm0I8CUMF-4RIBaDpBQJIQOZAMWIFwYgbo8Sx3TI2C5GexSw_a-23wt3D0okOez9Eyr4e-kGlKkLP-SkJIdtlUEP19NcRyysZ2mgZYWbbHO1-8BsW0Vw2uodq_1vv46X6zZv8KGATCc0pZatJ7Q0Cpex1ubuiHTBwBYgTrcPayAN-FLmO0VGbDTUItBM-Ew8vfPQ7LLHT0ibTyWKqmvRjAZUdslmGxZRi3tJSdQ&sai=AMfl-YTY_LUuCWD-TJDTQscOHgKFP-6PSZjl1_qewJ6o_z954923qZEweym0JB6YX8Y7tn_GjAbgcNDtYguTAcQgt6d5ACBJLZ-vJ2UCZjTbaw&sig=Cg0ArKJSzImwGbzrCFUrEAE&urlfix=1&adurl=https://www.usatoday.com/pages/interactives/sponsor-story/ASU-coach-discusses-how-to-teach-a-team-to-execute/)
(https://adclick.g.doubleclick.net/pcs/click?xai=AKAOjst_n8YJA14s5mvrJf1enPcDLMPCuDlOrqqWxRWQ5wk--U9CGPAvvZu8SG6UuGR0pozPIYYpzEjRFRFEm0I8CUMF-4RIBaDpBQJIQOZAMWIFwYgbo8Sx3TI2C5GexSw_a-23wt3D0okOez9Eyr4e-kGlKkLP-SkJIdtlUEP19NcRyysZ2mgZYWbbHO1-8BsW0Vw2uodq_1vv46X6zZv8KGATCc0pZatJ7Q0Cpex1ubuiHTBwBYgTrcPayAN-FLmO0VGbDTUItBM-Ew8vfPQ7LLHT0ibTyWKqmvRjAZUdslmGxZRi3tJSdQ&sai=AMfl-YTY_LUuCWD-TJDTQscOHgKFP-6PSZjl1_qewJ6o_z954923qZEweym0JB6YX8Y7tn_GjAbgcNDtYguTAcQgt6d5ACBJLZ-vJ2UCZjTbaw&sig=Cg0ArKJSzImwGbzrCFUrEAE&urlfix=1&adurl=https://www.usatoday.com/pages/interactives/sponsor-story/ASU-coach-discusses-how-to-teach-a-team-to-execute/)
Story from Amway COACHES POLL How ASU coach Herm Edwards uses chaos to train his team to execute. Learn More

OPINION

Horse racing, bourbon and space flight? Yes, the aerospace industry is big in Kentucky

D. Stewart Ditto II, Opinion contributor Published 6:44 a.m. ET Oct. 3, 2019

Kentucky is known for many things, including horse racing, bourbon, automobile manufacturing and Kentucky Fried Chicken, but it's a little-known fa
that the aerospace industry is a big part of our commonwealth enterprise.

GET THE NEWS

Recently NASA made a visit to our great state to recognize three companies that contribute to its new large rocket, the Space Launch System, called SLS for short, which will launch within the next several years.

This new rocket will carry the Orion spacecraft, and together they will launch astronauts further into space than ever before. The first three missions of SLS and Orion are dedicated to first exploring space around the Moon and beyond — and establishing a human presence on the moon, before venturing to further destinations. These three missions are dubbed Artemis 1, 2 and 3.

Kentucky is contributing a great deal to boost the Artemis program. Through Artemis, NASA is developing the core capabilities needed to establish a sustainable human presence on the moon and beyond, paving the way for human missions to Mars. Kentucky businesses have supported human space exploration for decades by supplying NASA programs with aluminum powders, high quality synthetic rubber and elastomer sealing used in multiple NASA programs.

ADVERTISEMENT

Additionally, two NASA astronauts stem from Kentucky. Randy Bresnik was born on Fort Knox, and Terry Wilcutt was born in Russellville and attended Western Kentucky University.

McConnell: I'm committed to helping Kentucky's coal families. My record proves it (/story/opinion/2019/10/02/mitch-mcconnell-my-record-shows-im-friend-coal-families/3789711002/)

Below are some examples of the amazing work happening in Kentucky, by the companies visited by NASA.

Parker Hannifin Corporation is both an Orion and SLS supplier. The company's various divisions have supplied NASA with parts for many decades. Specifically, Parker Hannifin O-ring and Engineered Seals Division, based in Lexington, has been a key partner for NASA's elastomer sealing needs on many programs, including the Space Shuttle Program, from its inception all the way up to the Mars 2020 Rover and beyond.

STORY FROM AMWAY COACHES POLL

How the Sun Devils' veteran coach Herm Edwards helps his teams execute

(https://www.usatoday.com/pages/interactives/sponsor story/ASU-coach-discusses-how-to-teach-a-team-to-execute/)

American Synthetic Rubber Company was built in Louisville in 1942. They began making synthetic rubber for use during World War II in 1943 and began making PBAA copolymer for NASA in 1957 and PBAN terpolymer in the 1960s. PBAN polymer was first used in the Minuteman I First Stage and the Polaris and Poseidon Missiles in 1960. PBAN was used for the space shuttle from 1977-2011. ASRC supplies HB polymer to Northrop Grumman for Space Launch System rocket boosters.

More Opinion: NCAA's 'pimp game' may finally end with California's move to pay college athletes (/story/opinion/2019/10/01/california-law-pay-college-athletes-may-end-ncaa-pimp-game/3832122002/)

ECKART America Corporation has been manufacturing metallic pigments and powders since 1876. ECKART America produces the aluminum powder Northrup Grumman for the SLS booster propellant at its site in Louisville. The Louisville site, then under different ownership, also manufactured the aluminum powder for the space shuttle program in the late 1980s.

Download our apps and get alerts for local news, weather & traffic.

Android/iPhone Apps (https://c00.adobe.com/v3/1335245b18c7391f0b381605969262c168a37f694d3954932ce6ed7d67558ad7/start?a_dl=5d3076f41281181129e84dae)
Find us on social media: Twitter (https://twitter.com/courierjournal) | Sports Twitter (https://twitter.com/sports_cj) | Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/courierjournal) | Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/courierjournal/)

SUBSCRIBE Support local journalism (https://offers.courier-journal.com/specialoffer/)

I am proud of our more than 600 Kentucky companies in the aerospace and defense business that comprise 19,000 jobs in the aviation and aerospa cluster. Kentucky had more than $12.4 billion in aerospace and defense exports in 2018, making it Kentucky's No. 1 export and making Kentucky the 2 aerospace export state in the United States.

As we say at the Kentucky Aerospace Industry Consortium, "We see limits and we test them. We see boundaries and we cross them. We think Kentu is more than horses, bluegrass and bourbon. We see the future, and we're flying towards it."

I feel honored to be a part of this great state, and I am excited to see our role in aerospace play out with NASA in the Artemis program. As the nation pushes the boundaries of space exploration, Kentucky will be there every step of the way.

If you want to see aerospace and aviation businesses in your region, see the map on the Kentucky Aerospace Industry Consortium's website (http://kyaerodefensemap.com/).

D. Stewart Ditto II is executive director of the Kentucky Aerospace Industry Consortium.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY

You may also be interested in



➜ Rand Paul wants Trump whistleblower named and to keep president's calls private (https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/politics/2019/10/02/rand-paul-wants-president-donald-trump-whistleblower-come-forward/3839189002/?utm_source=oembed&utm_medium=onsite&utm_campaign=storylines&utm_content=news&utm_term=3132883002)

➜ Gov. Matt Bevin touts 'Bring Your Bible to School Day' on Thursday (https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/politics/2019/10/02/matt-bevin-supports-bring-your-bible-to-school-day-2019/3839618002/?utm_source=oembed&utm_medium=onsite&utm_campaign=storylines&utm_content=news&utm_term=3132883002)

➜ After years of planning, Louisville's Waterfront Botanical Gardens opens this week (https://www.courier-journal.com/story/life/home-garden/2019/10/02/waterfront-botanical-gardens-louisville-opens/3835883002/?utm_source=oembed&utm_medium=onsite&utm_campaign=storylines&utm_content=news&utm_term=3132883002)

➜ 'Historic' downtown building owned by Omni Hotel could be demolished (https://www.courier-journal.com/story/money/companies/2019/10/02/omni-hotel-could-demolish-historic-building-downtown-louisville/3831333002/?utm_source=oembed&utm_medium=onsite&utm_campaign=storylines&utm_content=news&utm_term=3132883002)

➜ Dozens of Kentucky schools given five-star rating despite achievement gaps (https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/education/2019/10/02/kentucky-schools-given-five-star-rating-despite-achievement-gaps-kprep-2019/3822021002/?utm_source=oembed&utm_medium=onsite&utm_campaign=storylines&utm_content=news&utm_term=3132883002)

Read or Share this story: https://www.courier-journal.com/story/opinion/2019/10/03/kentucky-aerospace-industry-work-rocket-recognized-nasa/3786889002/

