



Downsview Aerospace
Innovation & Research

Federal Pre-Budget Submission
by the
Downsview Aerospace Innovation and Research (DAIR)
Working Group
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Submitted by: Andrew Petrou
apetrou@centennialcollege.ca
416-289-5000, ext. 5240

Canadian Aerospace Industry – Current Status

Aerospace employment in Canada is set to double by 2020. At the same time, the industry faces a demographic challenge with an aging workforce. As one example the Bombardier facility in Toronto employs approximately 4,000 people and the average age of a Bombardier employee is 54. There are also approximately 1000 employees at the facility who are eligible for retirement or will be eligible in the next five years¹.

This challenge is echoed in the National Aerospace Review, which was mandated by the Federal Government of Canada in which it states: “One of the significant constraints to industry growth identified is an aging workforce and skilled labour shortage.”²

With this pending skills shortage and an industry that is projected to double over the next fifteen years, there is an urgency to address this problem in order to ensure Canada can continue to meet the needs of the industry and also maintain a competitive advantage in the global aerospace sector.

The Solution

In alignment with the federal recommendation³ (Recommendation 17), the Downsview Aerospace Innovation and Research (DAIR) working group (an association of all the large aerospace companies and leading post-secondary education institutions in the GTA, supported and encouraged by the governments of Canada, Ontario, and the City of Toronto) has proposed the development of an Aerospace Hub at Downsview Park as the solution to this pending labour shortage. In addition, the Hub will increase the opportunity for advanced R&D and commercialization of new technologies and improve collaboration between academia and industry.

The creation of the Aerospace Hub at Downsview Park is projected to facilitate the development of up to 14,400 sustainable jobs and provide direct, indirect, and induced benefits of up to \$2.3 billion over the next 20 years⁴. Therefore it is evident that the creation of the Aerospace Hub can provide a viable solution to

¹ Deloitte (2010), The Strategic and Economic Impact of the Canadian Aerospace Industry

² Emerson, D (2012). Beyond the Horizon: Canada’s Interests and Future in Aerospace. *Aerospace Review*. Accessed August 31, 2013 at [http://aerospacereview.ca/eic/site/060.nsf/vwapj/Aerospace-e-online.pdf/\\$file/Aerospace-e-online.pdf](http://aerospacereview.ca/eic/site/060.nsf/vwapj/Aerospace-e-online.pdf/$file/Aerospace-e-online.pdf)

³ Emerson, D (2012). Beyond the Horizon: Canada’s Interests and Future in Aerospace. *Aerospace Review*. Accessed August 31, 2013 at [http://aerospacereview.ca/eic/site/060.nsf/vwapj/Aerospace-e-online.pdf/\\$file/Aerospace-e-online.pdf](http://aerospacereview.ca/eic/site/060.nsf/vwapj/Aerospace-e-online.pdf/$file/Aerospace-e-online.pdf)

⁴ KPMG (2014), Downsview Aerospace Hub: Business Case

the projected shortage of skilled labour and will increase the competitive advantage in the aerospace industry for both Ontario and Canada.

The proposed Aerospace Hub is in a geographic area where aerospace industry and academic stakeholders can co-locate for the purposes of increased collaboration. There are three primary building blocks of the Downsview Aerospace Hub: Academic Institutions, Industry, and the Downsview DAIR Innovation Centre.

Downsview Location

Ontario, specifically Downsview Park (under Canada Lands Company), is considered a strategic location as it is endowed with ample area for development within city limits, a runway, close proximity to expanding TTC and GO transit, and a current Bombardier Aerospace presence (refer to Figure 1). Downsview Park is also in close proximity and accessible to most of Ontario's aerospace companies and has a long history tied to the Canadian aerospace industry.

Figure 1 – Downsview Park



Aerospace Hub Components – Current Status

- Bombardier Aerospace has an existing facility at Downsview Park.
- Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC) has an existing facility at Downsview Park.

- Centennial College is currently engaged in the repurposing of the de Havilland building, for which the Province of Ontario has already committed \$26 million.
- University of Toronto's Institute for Aerospace Studies (UTIAS) has announced plans to relocate to Downsview Park.
- The Innovation Centre will include dedicated and shared space for both individual and collaborative R&D activities.
- The key partners who have expressed interest in space within the Innovation Centre include:
 - Ryerson University – dedicated space
 - York University – dedicated space
 - Bombardier Aerospace – dedicated space
 - Industry partners – membership/user-pay basis for shared facilities (test labs, research collaborations, etc.)

The Ask

We are requesting that direction be given to Canada Lands Company to work with DAIR towards the creation of a public-private partnership in the development of the Downsview Lands for an Aerospace Hub.

DAIR is also requesting funding of up to \$60 million over 5 years (\$12 million per year for 5 years) from the Federal Government in support of the development of an Aerospace Hub at Downsview Park.