

Spirit AeroSystems Unveils Fabrication Center of Excellence

SPRIT AEROSYSTEMS recently unveiled the first of two centers of excellence, focusing on the fabrication of complex commercial and military aircraft parts. The facility, located on the company's headquarters campus in Wichita, Kansas, will accommodate new work in the global aerostructures market while also supporting current customer contracts.

"We announced plans last year to invest and grow our fabrication capabilities to \$1 billion, and this new Five-Axis Center of Excellence in Wichita is a step in achieving that goal," said Spirit President and CEO Tom Gentile. "New state-of-the-art machining in this facility further solidifies Spirit's fabrication and chemical processing capability, and will enhance our ability to win new fabrication work from both current and future customers."

The purchase and installation of new equipment in the 20,000 square-foot facility began in 2017, augmenting the company's existing capabilities as one of the world's largest fabricators of aerospace parts. Spirit offers customers a wide range of solutions including machining, skin and sheet metal fabrication and chemical processing.

"Our investment in fabrication capabilities through these Center of Excellence expansions builds our global competitive advantage for fabrication work," said Spirit Senior Vice President of Global Fabrication, Kevin Matthies. "The expansion in Wichita—and later this year in McAlester, Oklahoma—will allow us to be a true global leader in fabrication work with better quality and improved turn time."

The new Five-Axis Center of Excellence in Wichita will utilize high-speed technology to specialize in large, complex soft metal parts for fuselage, pylon and wing structures.

Spirit's fabrication capability spans more than 2.6 million square feet and produces more than 38,000 parts daily. The company leverages one of the largest automated lines in the world to reliably offer high-volume and high-velocity processing.



Spirit AeroSystems' new Center of Excellence is located on the company's headquarters campus in Wichita, Kansas.

The expansion plans follows Spirit AeroSystem's announcement in December 2017 that the company was adding 1,000 jobs at its Kansas facility. The growth is fueled by a number of factors: increasing production rates on existing commercial aircraft programs, growth in Spirit's Fabrication and Defense businesses and other new business pursuits. The announcement solidifies Spirit's presence in Wichita and Kansas for decades to come.

About Spirit AeroSystems

Spirit AeroSystems designs and builds aerostructures for both commercial and defense customers. With headquarters in Wichita, Kansas, Spirit operates sites in the U.S., U.K., France and Malaysia. The company's core products include fuselages, pylons, nacelles and wing components for the world's premier aircraft. Spirit AeroSystems focuses on affordable, innovative composite and aluminum manufacturing solutions to support customers around the globe. More information is available at www.spiritaero.com.



Spirit AeroSystems is a supplier to Sikorsky for the CH-53K helicopter. Sikorsky components are manufactured in the company's Wichita, Kansas facility.