

Fact Sheet: Impact Story



A success story. The Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority took ownership of the 900,000 sq. ft. former Newark Air Force Base in October 1996, becoming the first privatization-in-place in military history. The facility was renamed the Central Ohio Aerospace & Technology Center and celebrated 50 years in 2012.



Called one of Ohio's finest examples of a public-private partnership, the Aerospace Center brags the presence of *Fortune 500* companies to small businesses. Today, the original base hosts 15 employers including The Boeing Company, Bionetics, AFMETCAL, UTC Aerospace Systems. These companies, combined with others are doing what the Air Force once did, and more.

Impactful. Combined, the employers at the Aerospace Center employ over 1,350 with an over \$200 million economic impact.

The face of Boeing in Ohio. Boeing, as a company, did a total of \$12.2 billion in business in Ohio in 2015. That's more than 2% of Ohio's Gross Domestic Product. Boeing's largest presence in the state is at the Aerospace Center in Heath.

Tops in Ohio. The Port Authority receives no tax dollars and, as such, is the largest, self-sustaining port authority in Ohio among more than 50 ports. It is the fourth-largest overall.

Heath's Hot Corner. A spec building that began in late 2013 was the first of four projects that have happened at James Parkway and Kaiser Drive. xperion, MISTRAS Group, Ariel Corp., and Southgate have combined to invest over \$25 million at this "hot corner" in Heath.



Fact Sheet: About Us



The Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority was created in May 1995 to ensure the workload and capabilities of the Newark Air Force Base could remain in Licking County. After privatization-in-place of the Air Force workloads came about in October 1996, the Port Authority took ownership of the property and equipment of the re-named Central Ohio Aerospace & Technology Center. Boeing, under inertial guidance system repair, and Bionetics, under an Air Force metrology contract, join AFMETCAL, housing the directorate of metrology, and UTC Aerospace Systems as the largest customers at the Aerospace Center.

The Port Authority has established a reputation as a government innovator. Originally, the Port Authority was thought to need upwards of 50 employees to do its work. Today, it is managed by just six employees and governed by a nine-member board consisting of community leaders. The Port Authority has grown to become **the largest, self-sustaining port authority** among nearly 60 port authorities in Ohio and the fourth-largest overall.

Management, development, and solutions describes the triple missions in which the Port Authority is engaged. The Port Authority is charged with property **management** for the 57 acres of former Air Force Property. The Authority signed a lease extension with Boeing in 2013 that guarantees their presence through 2021 with an option through 2028. A \$5.7 million new office and clean room building was built by the Port Authority in 2011 to retain UTC Aerospace Systems and provide new space for the Air Force's AFMETCAL program. The Port Authority's creative *Next Generation Fund* incentive program has been part of bringing more \$12 million worth of job-creating projects to the Aerospace Center campus in the past seven years, including modernization of engineering labs for UTC and a Flow Lab for Bionetics.

Through a major acquisition in 2002, the Port Authority is an industrial **development** land bank for a ready-to-build, industrial campus of over 350 acres. The Port Authority has invested in five road and two bridge projects as part of the betterment of the campus since 2006 to get the site ready for manufacturers. The Aerospace Center's South Campus welcomed a high-tech project for Samuel Strapping Systems in 2007 with a \$27 million total investment. Now nicknamed "Heath's Hot Corner," the corner of James Parkway and Kaiser Drive has welcomed German CNG tank manufacturer xperion, gas compressor manufacturer Ariel, testing labs for MISTRAS Group, and an industrial spec building for a combined \$25 million in capital investment in the past three years.

The Port Authority also takes a role in providing community **solutions** in economic development for Licking County and the region. It's *Potentia* community solutions arm has undertaken \$342 million in creative financing for regional projects in the past 14 years, including the state's first-ever sales tax conversion project in New Albany to convert sales tax dollars to public infrastructure funding. The Port Authority has also focused on advocacy for STEM careers. The Port Authority has been among the top funders of and CEO Rick Platt has provided leadership to a national-model STEM initiative at The Works, encouraging young people and their parents to understand the value of science, technology, engineering, and math skills and is also a funding partner of the successful Grow Licking County CIC that began in 2012.



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