



AVIATION INDUSTRIAL CENTER AT YUMA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DEFENSE CONTRACTOR COMPLEX

We Don't Support the War Fighters, We Support Those Who Do

GENERAL INFORMATION

Experience: Aviation Industrial Center at Yuma International Airport Defense Contractor Complex

Country: United States of America

Coordinating Institution: Yuma County Airport Authority, Arizona

Other institutions involved: Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, United States Army Yuma Proving Grounds

Duration of the experience: September 2013 - present

Webpage: www.defensetesting.com

Area of the successful experience: ICTs & investments

DETAILED INFORMATION

1) Description

The Aviation Industrial Center is a multi-tenant aviation support facility constructed at the Yuma International Airport in Yuma, Arizona. This state of the art facility is located in an area designated as the “Defense Contractor Complex”, which is a secure portion of the airfield designed and constructed to support civilian defense contractors in their mission to provide aviation related service, material, development/testing and training to the two major defense installations in the desert Southwest region, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma and the US Army Yuma Proving Grounds.



The combination of the facilities and infrastructure capable of handling the world’s largest aircraft in mil-spec secure site owned and operated by civilian agencies within the fence-line of a military airfield present economic opportunities never before seen in the industry. As a “Shared Use” facility, civilian contractors can

operate in a military spec environment while enjoying the benefits of operating in a civilian owned and operated environment.

2) Beneficiaries

The benefits of the project are not only economic but educational. The project has drawn defense contractors to the region bringing employment with high job multipliers in addition to a demand for professional educational development. Aviation employers need instructions of higher learning to attract and develop talent. As a result of the Project, major universities such as Northern Arizona University, the University of Arizona and Arizona State University has developed or expanded their offerings in the region which benefits the entire populace.

3) Implementation

The project was developed through the excellent aviation partnership existing between the United States Marine Corps Air Station Yuma and the Yuma County Airport Authority, Inc. as documented by the Joint Use Agreement. The facility was constructed in part through a grant provided by the United States Economic Development Administration in addition to local financing.

4) Accomplishments and Results

The project has resulted in increased economic activity that otherwise never would have occurred. The combination of long term tenants of the Defense Contractor Complex such as NASA, the US Customs and Border Protection Air and Marine Division and FedEx combined with numerous short term tenants such as Lockheed, Blue Air Training, Boeing, GE, AeroVironment and L3 have brought investment and development to an economically depressed region.

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The collection of experiences showcasing successful projects implemented by stakeholders in countries of the Americas is one of the most important tasks of the Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC). There are more than 200 experiences available in the Signs of Competitiveness in the Americas Reports 2012 -2015: www.riacreport.org.

The Organization of American States (OAS) serves as the RIAC Technical Secretariat to facilitate the knowledge sharing between countries, multilateral and academic institutions. The experiences and intellectual contributions presented by RIAC members for the 2015 Signs of Competitiveness in the Americas Report will provide valuable input for the RIAC Annual Meetings and the panel discussions during the IX Americas Competitiveness Forum (ACF) to be held in Guatemala City, on November 16-18, 2015.

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