



Detroit Region Aerotropolis / VantagePort

Fact Sheet

Background

The creation of an Aerotropolis, envisioned long ago by Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, was also an important component of the Road to Renaissance strategy to help grow the economy for the entire Detroit region. The goal was to develop the area between and surrounding Detroit Metro and Willow Run airports into a global logistics hub for the movement of people, products and information. Based on extensive research and community input, the initiative was launched in 2006 by Business Leaders for Michigan (formerly Detroit Renaissance) in collaboration with Wayne and Washtenaw Counties.

In 2008, County Executive Ficano created a public-private Task Force to guide development of the effort. Several studies were conducted, which laid the groundwork for the organization. Those studies showed economic potential over the long term (25 years) of 60,000 jobs and \$10 billion in investment.

Since its launch, seven local communities, the Wayne County Airport Authority and DTE Energy joined the originators to form the Detroit Region Aerotropolis Development Corporation (ADC), which was created in February, 2009 through an Interlocal Agreement. It is a separate legal entity and public body corporate.

Members of the ADC include:

Wayne County
Washtenaw County
Belleville
Huron Township
City of Romulus
City of Taylor
Van Buren Township
City of Ypsilanti
Ypsilanti Township
Wayne County Airport Authority
Business Leaders for Michigan
DTE Energy

Since its inception, interim staff and administrative support have been provided to the ADC by Wayne County.

In 2011, the ADC was the first entity and one of only five in the state to receive **Next Michigan Development Corporation** status from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, allowing it to offer specific economic development incentives.

Recent Progress

- Hiring of a permanent CEO was critical to moving forward.
- A Strategic Marketing & Organizational Plan was recently completed by Greyhill Advisors, a global site selection and economic development firm.
- The Aerotropolis is being rebranded with a new name: VantagePort.
- A refreshing of the ADC website is underway and planned for a re-launch in mid-August.
- The recent release of the State's Logistics and Supply Chain Strategy reinforces the importance of the Aerotropolis initiative and ADC representatives participated in the development of the state's strategy.

Recent economic development successes in the ADC region include:

- GE, Van Buren Township; 1,400 jobs, \$117,000,000 investment
- Kalitta Charters, Ypsilanti; 60 jobs, \$5, 800,000 investment
- Kalitta Charters, Ypsilanti Township; 30 jobs, \$2,400,000 Investment
- Bosal, Ypsilanti Township; 5 jobs, \$5,120,291 investment
- Brose North America; 350 jobs, \$61,000,000 investment
- Sensitile, Ypsilanti Township; 5 jobs, \$293,956 investment
- Inergy Automotive Systems; 240 new jobs, \$60,000,000 investment
- Constellium, Van Buren Township; 75 new jobs, \$21,000,000 investment
- Detroit Thermal Systems, 300 new jobs; \$41,000,000 investment
- ZYNP; 60 jobs, \$7,530,000 investment

Next Steps

- Developing & implementing a well-funded marketing and business development program, incorporating the new VantagePort brand.
- Identifying business development targets by industry sector, including logistics & distribution, back office operations, educational facilities, manufacturing and food processing, and retail and mixed use opportunities, among others.
- Developing a high level master plan of the area, including designation of areas for specific purposes and identifying infrastructure needs and development standards.
- Possible expansion of the ADC to include additional governmental units and private sector partners.

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