

A Rich Aerospace and Defense Heritage in Western New York

Western New York state has a rich aerospace and defense history dating from the beginning of manned flight to the current U.S. space program.

The early years.

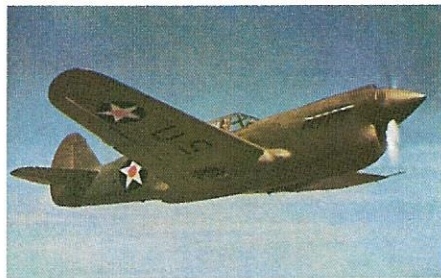
The history of aviation in the region began when aviation pioneer Glenn Curtiss founded the Curtiss Aircraft Company. Those early years saw many "firsts" achieved by aircraft developed and manufactured locally.

- Curtiss supplied the U.S. military with more than 6,700 JN-4 "Jenny" aircraft during World War I.
- A Curtiss NC-4 seaplane made the first transatlantic flight in 1919.
- Seaplanes built by Consolidated Aircraft pioneered long range flight.

The world at war.

With the U.S. entry into World War II, the region developed and manufactured tens of thousands of front-line aircraft that saw action around the world.

- Curtiss-Wright Aircraft Company produced the P-40 Warhawk, C-46 Commando and SB2C Helldiver.
- Bell Aircraft Company produced the P-39 Airacobra and P-63 King Cobra.
- The first American jet aircraft, the top secret Bell P-59 Airacomet, flew in 1942.



Western New York has a rich history in aerospace and defense dating back to the beginnings of American aviation.

The pathway to space.

As manned flight soared toward the space age, Western New York state companies helped lead the way.

- In 1947, Air Force Captain Charles Yeager became the first human to fly faster than the speed of sound in Bell Aircraft Corporation's X-1 aircraft.
- The world's first commercial helicopter and first jet-powered vertical take-off and landing aircraft were designed and produced in Western New York state.
- Critical components and systems from atmosphere controls to liquid rocket engines were produced by more than twenty Western New York state companies for Projects Mercury, Gemini and the Apollo moon missions.

ADIC — building on a proud heritage.

Today, the area's tradition of technological innovation and leadership continues with components, systems and sub-systems for programs such as

the Navy's Aegis, the U.S. Air Force E-3A AWACS, the B-2 Stealth bomber, the F-117, the F-22 Fighter, the F-16, the Tomahawk missile, the Seawolf submarine, and the NASA space shuttle and space station projects. Western New York technology is also employed in the engines for the Boeing 777, in the FAA's radar, and modern communications equipment.

More than 7,000 people are employed by the aerospace and defense-related companies of ADIC. These companies represent the majority of the defense manufacturing dollars brought into the Western New York region. Western New York is the 10th largest area in the United States in terms of defense dollars received. The diverse technology offerings of ADIC companies, from electronics and avionics to information sciences and space systems, make Western New York state a leading center of modern aerospace research, development and manufacturing.



ADIC member companies build on a proud heritage to meet future needs with technological innovations.

An established infrastructure for aerospace and defense industries.

Western New York state has always played a prominent role in the development of our nation's aerospace and defense industries, and continues to be a leading area for business. Located on the border of the two largest trading countries in the world, Western New York is within a 500-mile (800 kilometer) radius of most of the manufacturing activity in the United States and 55% of the total U.S. population, as well as 62% of the population in Canada.

The US-Canada Free Trade Agreement makes Western New York state the logical choice for border business, with major Canadian markets such as Toronto less than a 90-minute drive away. The Buffalo-Toronto Free Trade corridor promises to be one of the most lucrative trade routes in the world.

Transportation network.

Western New York state's extensive transportation network offers easy access for the needs of business travel. The New York State Thruway serves the area with connections to major highways



Home to Niagara Falls, Western New York is a leading business area due in part to its abundance of natural resources and affordable electricity.

spanning out in all directions, including three international bridges to Canada.

By air, the Greater Buffalo International Airport serves over 3.5 million passengers and handles over 65 million pounds (29.25 million kilograms) of air freight annually. The Niagara Falls International Airport, with its 10,000 foot (3050 meter) runway, also serves the airlines of the world, and the Niagara Falls Air Force base is home to the U.S. Air Force 914th Airlift Group and the 107th Air Refueling Group.

Four major railroads serve the area with bridge connections to Canada. Western New York state also offers convenient access to water transportation for inland and oceangoing vessels through

the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Great Lakes transportation network.

Abundant natural resources.

Vast resources of electricity, natural gas and fresh water have helped to make Western New York state a leading business center. Nearly 8 million kilowatts of reliable electricity are available from a number of generating sources, including hydroelectric power from Niagara Falls. Natural gas is locally purchased, with a total system throughput of more than 300 billion cubic feet (8.4 billion cubic meters). Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and the Niagara River provide clean and abundant fresh water, with municipalities pumping over 400 million gallons (1514 million liters) per day.