



Birmingham region to host international aerospace, automotive summits this May

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lauren Cooper: 205-241-8127 (office); 205-910-3215 (cell)

Rachel Burchfield: 205-241-8102 (office); 785-230-1452 (cell)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – April 24, 2019 – Birmingham will host two concurrent international business conventions this May, serving the aerospace and automotive industries. Both events will take place at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex, with 200 companies from around the globe expected to participate.

Birmingham's focus on high-tech job growth and the city's extensive infrastructure will be front and center during the global summit, making it ideal to identify innovative partners to build out the next generation of manufacturing, said Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin.

"Now, more than ever, Birmingham is focused on bringing high-quality technology jobs to our city. The summit gives a great chance to identify innovative partners that share our commitment to the next generation of manufacturing in the aerospace and automotive industries," Woodfin said. "Birmingham's infrastructure, including four major highways, railways, and 400+ acres of the airport in an Opportunity Zone, position us as a destination city to expand high-tech manufacturing operations. We are grateful for the chance to highlight the strength of the workforce and the opportunity to become a logistical hub for companies looking to grow."

The Birmingham Business Alliance, City of Birmingham, the Birmingham Airport Authority and Jefferson County are partnering to market Birmingham at the conventions and improve economic development in the region.

"This is an excellent opportunity for Jefferson County to highlight the quality sites, quality of life and affordable wages it has to offer to the companies in these industries," said Jefferson County Commissioner Steve Ammons. "I'm confident that this event will help companies from around the globe envision Jefferson County as a place to grow and stay competitive."

The [Aerospace Innovative Technology Summit](#) (AITS) will be held from May 7 to 9 and will be a high-level event targeted to the aerospace, space and defense industries. The summit will focus on the use and application of innovative technologies in the sector, bringing together leading companies and engaging participants in meaningful and effective business meetings.

Featured presenters include Airbus, GKN, Microsoft, NASA and others. Birmingham was chosen as the host of the summit because of its central location in Alabama, which is a prime market for new and innovative aerospace technology near Airbus in Mobile and its proximity to Huntsville, home to the second largest research park in the United States.

“We know that airports can be great engines of economic development, so being able to showcase all that Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport has and the potential to offer is very important to us,” said Sylvester Lavender, Birmingham Airport Authority’s interim president and CEO. “We’re honored to work alongside and partner with the Birmingham Business Alliance, the City of Birmingham and Jefferson County on improving the economic opportunities and development in our region.”

The [Automotive Advanced Technology Summit](#) (AATS) will take place from May 8 to 9. Birmingham was chosen because of its location in the heart of the Southeast, a primary growth region for the automotive industry, and its location in the heart of the state of Alabama, which has emerged as an advanced manufacturing hub.

The automotive summit will focus on advanced manufacturing and innovative technologies within the industry, and major original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) such as Mercedes-Benz, Honda, Mazda Toyota Manufacturing and others will be featured presenters.

“It is an honor to have Birmingham chosen as the site for both of these conventions,” said Brian Jennings, vice president of economic development for the Birmingham Business Alliance. “It speaks to Alabama’s prominence in both the aerospace and automotive industries, and we look forward to bringing so many people together to foster continued growth of both industries.”

Both events feature custom, value-added one-to-one (BtoB) meetings providing participants the opportunity to meet the right people in an efficient format. Both events also include a dedicated conference, featuring high-level content from key stakeholders leading technological development in their industries. The gala dinner and networking reception the evening of May 8 will be held at the Barber Vintage Motorsport Museum in Birmingham.

Click here to [register for AITS](#) and here to [register for AATS](#).

###