



ORLANDO • MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT • MLB

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## **Aerion to Build Supersonic Aircraft at Orlando Melbourne Int'l (MLB)**

*675 new jobs and \$300M in private investment coming to Florida's Space Coast*

MELBOURNE, Fla. (April 24, 2020) – Aerion Supersonic has selected Orlando Melbourne International Airport (MLB) for its worldwide headquarters and integrated campus for research, design, build and maintenance of the company's supersonic aircraft. Aerion Park will house manufacturing of the company's new AS2 supersonic business jet with plans to create at least 675 new jobs by 2026 as part of a multi-year \$300 million investment. The development will take place on more than 60 acres of vacant airport property located at the northwest corner of MLB.

"We are incredibly honored and thrilled to bring this news to our community at a time when it's needed the most," said Greg Donovan, A.A.E., executive director at Orlando Melbourne International Airport (MLB). "We are proud to be the location of the future where Aerion will innovate, create and introduce new technologies and products to the aviation industry worldwide."

"The Space Coast has become a hub for the aviation and aerospace industry, and my administration continues to make it a priority to expand this high-wage and important business sector," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "We are thrilled that Aerion has selected Melbourne for its new global headquarters and will create 675 new jobs here in Florida."

Aerion is prepared to reshape the general aviation industry with the AS2 – the first privately built supersonic commercial aircraft ever which is designed to reach speeds of Mach 1.4 (over 1,000 mph) with the ability to accept 100% biofuels.

"We are building the next generation of high-speed transportation networks that will revolutionize global mobility without leaving a carbon footprint on our world," said Tom Vice, Aerion Supersonic Chairman, President & CEO. "Our AS2 business jet – the world's first privately built supersonic aircraft – is the first stage in that exciting endeavor. Having evaluated a number of potential locations for our new home, we are excited to partner with Florida and the Melbourne community to create a sustainable supersonic future."

The decision to launch the assembly of the AS2 at MLB, located in the heart of Florida's Space Coast, will allow Aerion to tap into the highly-skilled local workforce as well as attract some of the best aerospace talents in the world to Melbourne, Florida.

"The impact Aerion will have on our community and the state will be truly extraordinary," added MLB Director of Marketing and Business Development Mark Busalacchi. "In addition to the major workforce investment Aerion plans to make at the airport, there will also be hundreds of indirect jobs that will have a lasting effect in fueling our local economy."

Airport officials have worked to recruit Aerion to Florida since December 2018 with collaboration between several economic partners including the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast, Enterprise Florida, Inc., Space Florida and City of Melbourne.

"Brevard County is home to the pioneers of space exploration and now the pioneers of sustainable supersonic transportation." said Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast President and CEO Lynda

Weatherman. “Aerion Park raises the profile of the Space Coast as the premier site for the most innovative aerospace companies in the world and is an example of what can be accomplished, even in the most challenging times, when the EDC and its state and local partners work together.”

“Aerion is an excellent addition to our tenant base, affirming MLB as a global epicenter for the aviation, aerospace and defense industries,” said Melbourne Airport Authority Chairman Jack L. Ryals, C.C.I.M. “They will also add an entirely new dimension to our airfield with leading-edge technology.”

MLB’s airfield has been completely revived over the last few years with three rehabilitated runways and a new air traffic control tower. Additional taxiway and roadway improvements are on the way to accommodate Aerion’s operational plans thanks to funding support from Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Kevin Thibault and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

#### **ABOUT ORLANDO MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (MLB)**

Orlando Melbourne International Airport (MLB) is an award-winning airport, named Florida’s *2019 Commercial Service Airport of the Year* by FDOT and *#1 Most Scenic Airport Approach in the U.S.A.* by PrivateFly.com. Located on the Central Florida coast, MLB serves nearly 500,000 passengers annually with current nonstop service to Philadelphia (PHL) and Charlotte (CLT) on American Airlines, and Atlanta (ATL) on Delta Air Lines. With recent announcement of TUI UK’s arrival in 2022, plans are underway to invest millions of dollars into MLB’s terminal to provide an ultimate travel experience for all airport customers. MLB has positioned itself on the global stage as an epicenter for aviation, aerospace and defense, home to Northrop Grumman, L3Harris, Embraer, Collins Aerospace, Thales, and now Aerion Supersonic.

For additional information, visit [www.MLBair.com](http://www.MLBair.com) or follow @FlyMLB on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

#### **ABOUT AERION SUPERSONIC**

Aerion, the industry leader in supersonic travel, is pioneering a new generation of high-speed mobility solutions that significantly reduce the time and friction of travel while leaving no carbon footprint behind. The Mach 1.4 AS2 business jet is the first step towards this new paradigm of global mobility – powered by the world’s first efficient supersonic engine and designed for carbon neutral operation.

#MLBproud#

#MomentumInMelbourne#

#FlyMLB#

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