CHOOSE WASHINGTON EFFORT LAUNCHED TO WIN BOEING 797

Washington State is making its case to land the design, production and assembly of the next great Boeing airplane.

On December 20, Governor Jay Inslee launched the Choose Washington Council to join him in leading the charge to convince Boeing that Washington State is the best place to design and build the New Market Airplane (NMA), the 797. A Washington State win would preserve and grow aerospace jobs and further strengthen the aerospace supply chain.

Choose Washington brings together a wide swath of stakeholders representing labor, industry, counties and state agencies, including:

- **Pierce County** Executive Bruce Dammeier
- **King County** Executive Dow Constantine
- **Snohomish County** Executive Dave Somers
- Brain Bonlender, **Washington State Department of Commerce**
- Larry Brown, **International Association of Machinists 751**
- Kelly Maloney, **Aerospace Futures Alliance (AFA)**
- Chelsea Orvella, **Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace (SPEEA)**
- Robin Toth, **Greater Spokane Incorporated**

"Securing the NMA for Washington State is important for the future growth of aerospace in Pierce County and throughout the state," said Bruce Dammeier. "I look forward to working together to make our case that Washington is the best possible place for this new aircraft. We want nothing more than to tell people at next year's Paris Air Show that Boeing chose Washington to make its NMA, and that their companies will be well served to follow suit."

EDB President and CEO Bruce Kendall serves on the board of directors of the AFA, an association of suppliers and economic development professionals. He’ll work closely with AFA Executive Director Kelly Maloney, Dammeier and the Choose Washington Council to ensure the state puts its best foot forward. Sarah Bonds, EDB vice president for recruitment, will also be working on the project.

“Pierce County and the EDB have a strong history of being part of successful statewide responses to Boeing airplane competitions,” Kendall said, citing Boeing’s 787, 767 Tanker Deal, 737MAX and 777X. “Creating the Choose Washington Council is a critical step in what will be a state-versus-state competition for the 797. We’ll be ready.”

Boeing is the largest manufacturer of any kind with operations in Pierce County and supports 70 other aerospace businesses in the county and the jobs they represent. The Boeing Frederickson facility has 1 million square feet of manufacturing space and (among other products) produces the tail structure for the 787, and soon the 777X.

Boeing is expected to release an RFP sometime this year. We’ll share updates as they become available.

SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION FOR 2018 EXCELLENT 10

Do you know of a company or project that made an impact on the South Sound economy last year? Each year during its annual meeting, the EDB presents the Excellent 10—great economic development projects that were in progress or completed between January and December of the previous year.
Help us ensure people and projects get the kudos they deserve. The EDB is accepting nominations for the 2018 Excellent 10 through February 9.

Learn more about the Excellent 10 and submit nominations at bit.ly/EDBExcellent10. Winners will be unveiled March 8 at the 2018 EDB Annual Meeting.

2018 EDB ANNUAL MEETING: CELEBRATE THE SOUTH SOUND

Join old friends, see new faces and celebrate the innovative people and projects that boost the South Sound’s economy. The 2018 EDB Annual Meeting will be held March 8, 2018, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at the Greater Tacoma Convention Center. Gather with hundreds of business and civic leaders from across the region, find out about this year’s Excellent 10 and Golden Shovel award winners, and interact with a dynamic panel of experts who represent our region’s innovators.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available. Contact the EDB for details at 253.383.4726.

Don’t miss the largest economic development gathering in the South Sound. Buy your table or reserve your spot at edbtacomapierce.org/march8. Advance registration and payment required.

THANKS, SUNSET MAGAZINE...WELCOME TO THE SHOW!

Sunset Magazine recently named Tacoma as one of 20 game-changing places to live in the West. The magazine’s list of reasons why stretches long: revitalized historic buildings, the University of Washington Tacoma campus, a renovated waterfront and booming museum district, along with creative restaurants, affordable housing and an atmosphere that nurtures artists and innovators. Toss in our great businesses, beaches, trails, parks and nearby Mount Rainier, and it’s no wonder Sunset thinks Tacoma is on the verge of something great.

Read the whole story at bit.ly/SunsetSmallTowns.

Teamwork is a service of the EDB, a non-profit corporation focused on recruitment and retention of primary businesses in Tacoma and Pierce County, Washington, USA.
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