

At MFC we have a fleet of four MRJ flight test aircraft (FTA). We have accumulated more than 1500 flight hours and in 2017 alone, our MRJ program accomplished several flight test milestones including natural icing, high speed flutter, and extreme temperature tests just to name a few. One of the statistics we are most proud of is that the flight test program has seen only a 1 percent takeoff cancellation rate due to technical issues. We feel that this is a great testament to the quality of the aircraft and a terrific highlight for its future as a regional jet.

Teamwork is a vital component of the success of our MRJ program. We believe that the communities in which we live and work are important parts of our team. We want to share our success with our communities and help support causes in the areas where we live and work. Last year we helped sponsor a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) event in Moses Lake to introduce students to some of the career opportunities that are available through STEM education. Education is a great tool for our youth, but just as important is being able to use that tool to build a career. In the coming years, we hope to continue to promote STEM education and career opportunities with the Moses Lake community and surrounding areas.

We are very proud to be members of Washington state and your historic aviation community. We look forward to continuing the success of our MRJ program here and we thank you for the acceptance and support we have already received. 



Hitoshi "Hank" Iwasa is the Head of Moses Lake Flight Test Center. Iwasa-san has been with the MRJ program from its inception and he plays a crucial role overseeing the flight test program in Moses Lake.



THE “BOEING EFFECT”

Boeing Attracts International Businesses to Washington

Nearly half of The Boeing Company's workforce is located in Washington, making Boeing the largest private employer in the state. In addition to billions of dollars in payroll and vendor fees, taxes, and construction costs in 2017, Boeing regularly invests—staff time and financially—in training and education, charitable donations, innovative technologies, energy conservation initiatives, sustainable aviation biofuels, and much more, in Washington state.

The aerospace giant also makes non-linear investments that generate enormous economic benefit in Washington, such as relationships with foreign companies that result in those companies making capital investments in the state.

Mitsubishi Aircraft Corporation--MRJ

Mitsubishi Aircraft Corporation launched both an engineering office in Seattle focusing on flight test analysis, and a 65,000 square foot flight test facility in Moses Lake, creating more than 200 high-wage jobs in Washington state. The first Japanese built commercial jet since the 1960s, the MRJ (Mitsubishi Regional Jet) uses components from Washington state suppliers Esterline (Korry), Zodiac, and Avtech Tyee, among other Washington suppliers. AeroTEC, a Seattle-based firm specializing in helping companies fill testing, engineering and certification positions, has been working with Mitsubishi for the past two years to help them hire Washington engineers.



Zunum Aero

Kirkland-based Zunum Aero, an early stage aircraft/technology company developing hybrid-electric aircraft for short-haul regional travel, has been chosen by Boeing's new small-venture capital firm, HorizonX, to receive several million dollars in capital investment to help it achieve its goal of having its aircraft in service by the early 2020s.

Other foreign companies that have recently located in Washington to be in close proximity to Boeing include:

Kuka Aerospace

German robotics company, Kuka, has located next to Boeing's Everett plant and hired 75 employees to maintain and service their automated system used on the Boeing 777X. The system, Fuselage Automated Upright Build (FAUB) uses robotics to install nearly 60,000 fasteners on the 777X fuselage.

Umbra Cuscinetti

Italian aerospace company, Umbra Cuscinetti, chose to locate in Washington primarily because of Boeing. There is an Umbra part that powers a flight-critical control surface on every Boeing commercial aircraft model.

In Everett, Umbra employs around 120 people and are currently hiring for living wage jobs with the opportunity for advancement and training.

MTorres

Spanish automated equipment manufacturer and engineering firm, MTorres, located a facility in Everett two years ago to provide Boeing with robotics for the 777X wing spar. Kuka robotics drill and fasten stiffeners and rib posts to the wings of the jetliner, but MTorres, which currently has 120 employees at their Everett facility, has loftier goals in mind.

In December, 2017, they opened a new \$17 million, 70,000 square foot innovation and manufacturing center destined, according to plans, to develop fuselages without fasteners—a never-before manufacturing concept that could mean the elimination of fasteners through a process that produces fuselages out of a single piece of carbon fiber.

They hope to employ up to 175 through increased statements of work with a number of customers.

