Defense and homeland security operations find a strategic advantage in Macomb County that exists nowhere else in North America. This advantage is bolstered by our exceptional engineering, R&D and advanced manufacturing capabilities built over 100 years of meeting the exacting standards of the automotive, and aerospace industries. Today, defense and homeland security companies located in Macomb are capitalizing on the highly-skilled workforce, infrastructure and vast supplier network that is based here. This allows them to operate more efficiently and provide quality products and services. All told, Macomb County companies are better positioned to diversify and gain access to new markets.
BAE Systems, Sterling Heights - BAE Systems is a global defense, aerospace and security company with more than 93,500 employees worldwide. In 2012, it opened a four-story building in Sterling Heights that houses more than 400 employees and is a premier center for engineering, development and program management of military ground vehicles. Representing a $58 million investment in Macomb County, the 164,000-square-foot building is situated on 81 acres of land that includes a test track. In 2017, BAE invested in a new $12 million stand-alone facility on the site. This 12,800-square-foot building will allow the company to expand its testing and research capabilities. The new investment is supported by a 50 percent tax abatement from the local communities.

Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Harrison Township - Selfridge Air National Guard Base was established in 1917 and hosts the 127th Wing Refueling Group of the Michigan Air National Guard and a variety of other units within the Air Force Reserve, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Army Reserve, Army National Guard and active duty Coast Guard. Notably, the U.S. Army Garrison-Selfridge supports the Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM). Since 2011, the base has experienced a number of investment upgrades totaling over $47 million. In 2016, the base invested $32.6 million in a new jet fuel storage and delivery system. This will cut the time to refuel a KC-135 from hours to 15 minutes. The base continues to utilize Macomb County services to improve operations and connect to the local community.

SAPA Transmission, Shelby Township - Founded in Spain as a weapons manufacturer in the 15th century, the company recently entered the U.S. defense market utilizing space at Macomb County’s International Landing Zone, a program that offers six months of free rent plus business services for defense organizations. SAPA now is in the process of building a new North American headquarters in Shelby Township. The company choose the location to be close to its largest customers. SAPA’s investment will total over $40 million to build a 150,000-square-foot plant and offices. It will also create 223 new jobs. Macomb County helped SAPA receive a performance-based grant from the Michigan Strategic Fund for $2.7 million as well as a 50 percent tax abatement on new investment, a total incentive package for over $5.3 million.

TOP COMPANIES

- Alion Science and Technology
- BAE Systems
- Bauer Compressors Inc.
- Centerless Rebuilders Inc.
- CH Industries Inc.
- Curtiss-Wright Corporation
- DCS Corporation
- Duggan Manufacturing LLC
- Enmark Systems
- General Dynamics Land Systems
- General Electric Aviation
- Greene Metal Products
- KBRwyle
- KEO Cutters Inc.
- Lanzen Fabricating
- Mantech Advanced Systems International
- Navistar Defense
- Oshkosh Defense
- Rave Computers
- Science Applications International Corporation
- VSE Corporation
- Waltonen Engineering

LOCATIONAL ADVANTAGE

Macomb County is home to a number of military facilities that provide an advantage to defense contractors:

- Selfridge Air National Guard Base, home to all five branches of the armed services (Harrison Township)
- U.S. Army Garrison – Detroit Arsenal (Warren)
- U.S. Army TACOM LCMC (Tank Automotive Command- Life Cycle Management Command)
- U.S. Army TARDEC (Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center)

Our proximity to these military assets drives success in Macomb County:

- An existing network of more than 600 companies perform defense contract business.
- Macomb County companies have won $36 billion in defense contracts since 2000.
- Macomb County represents 63 percent of the defense business in Michigan.
- Nearly 20,000 defense contracts have been awarded to Macomb County companies since 2000.
- More than 30,000 workers are engaged in engineering, research and development.
- Our region is ranked first in the nation for industrial R&D spending, filing over 3,000 patents annually.
- Over 350 labs and research facilities in the state are devoted to industrial and manufacturing technologies.
- Forty-seven colleges and universities graduate more than 12,000 engineers and technicians a year.
- The Michigan Defense Center’s International landing zone is now open

AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE

macombgov.org
(00 + 1) 586-469-5285

The business development team of the Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development is here to help. Our job is to be knowledgeable about and connected to a wide assortment of programs available to help businesses succeed. This includes assisting with new investment in facilities and equipment, recruitment and training of new and existing employees, and helping with financing, exporting and diversifying the industry sectors your company serves. The business development team will introduce your company to our partner service agencies and work with you to ensure access to available local and state incentives.

Our services are free, confidential and easily accessed. Simply get in touch, and we will arrange for your team to meet with our seasoned professionals. The business development team will listen to your goals to grow your business and act as your project manager to navigate working with government agencies at all levels.