

MICHIGAN ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY (AAM) INITIATIVE



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**FUTURE MOBILITY
& ELECTRIFICATION**



Michigan's AAM strategy envisions the state as the top U.S. hub for testing, deployment, and production of AAM technologies by 2030.



AAM OVERVIEW



Governor Gretchen Whitmer with MEDC leaders after signing Executive Directive 2025-4 on July 17, 2025

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June 2025. Unleashing American Drone Dominance Executive Federal Orders are issued by the White House

July 2025. Executive Directive 2025-4 establishes the **Michigan Advanced Air Initiative**

December 2025. The 1st annual **MI AAM Initiative Report** is released

Partnership Department	AAM Initiative Lead
OFME	Justine Johnson, Chief Mobility Officer
MDOT	Bryan Budds, Director of Aeronautics
LEO	Shafiq Bari, Director of Mobility Policy
DMVA	Brigadier General Scott Meyers, Michigan National Guard
ODAI	Mark Ignash, Director of Strategic Initiatives & Ecosystem Development

BACKGROUND

AAM MARKET POISED TO GROW DRAMATICALLY

Size of drone market projected to exceed \$57B in 2030 with nearly \$10B in the U.S.

36,000

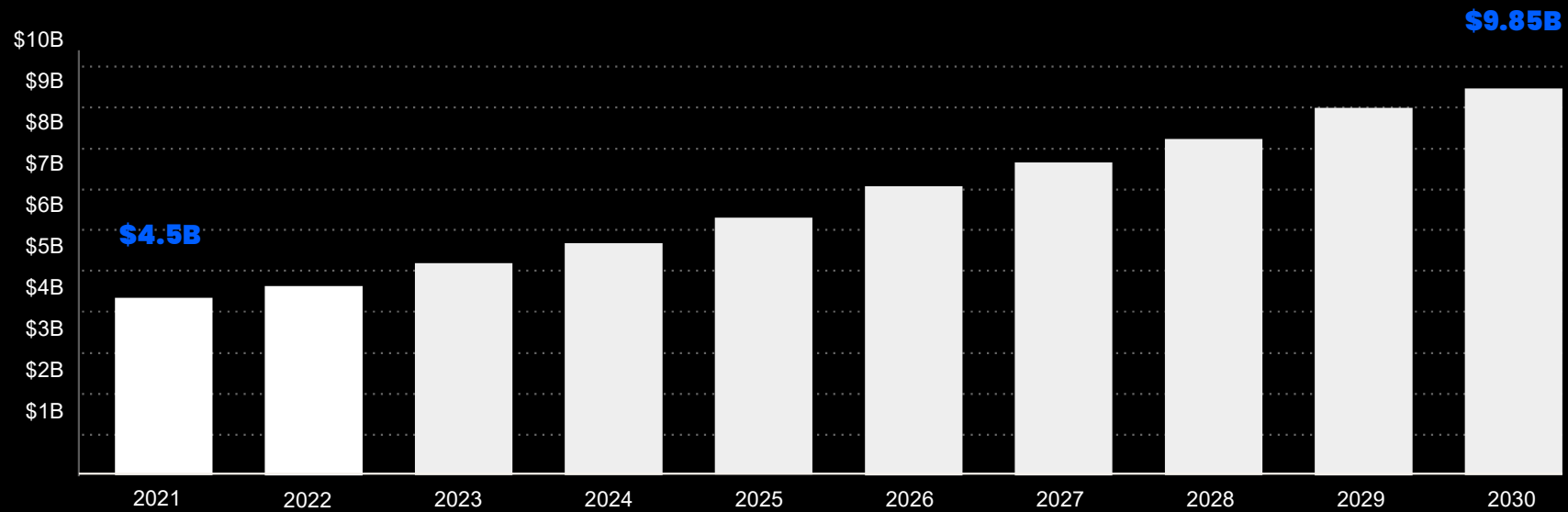
New or retrofitted
aircraft needed by
2035

\$115B+

Size of RAM
(eVTOL/sTOL)
market by 2035

60,000

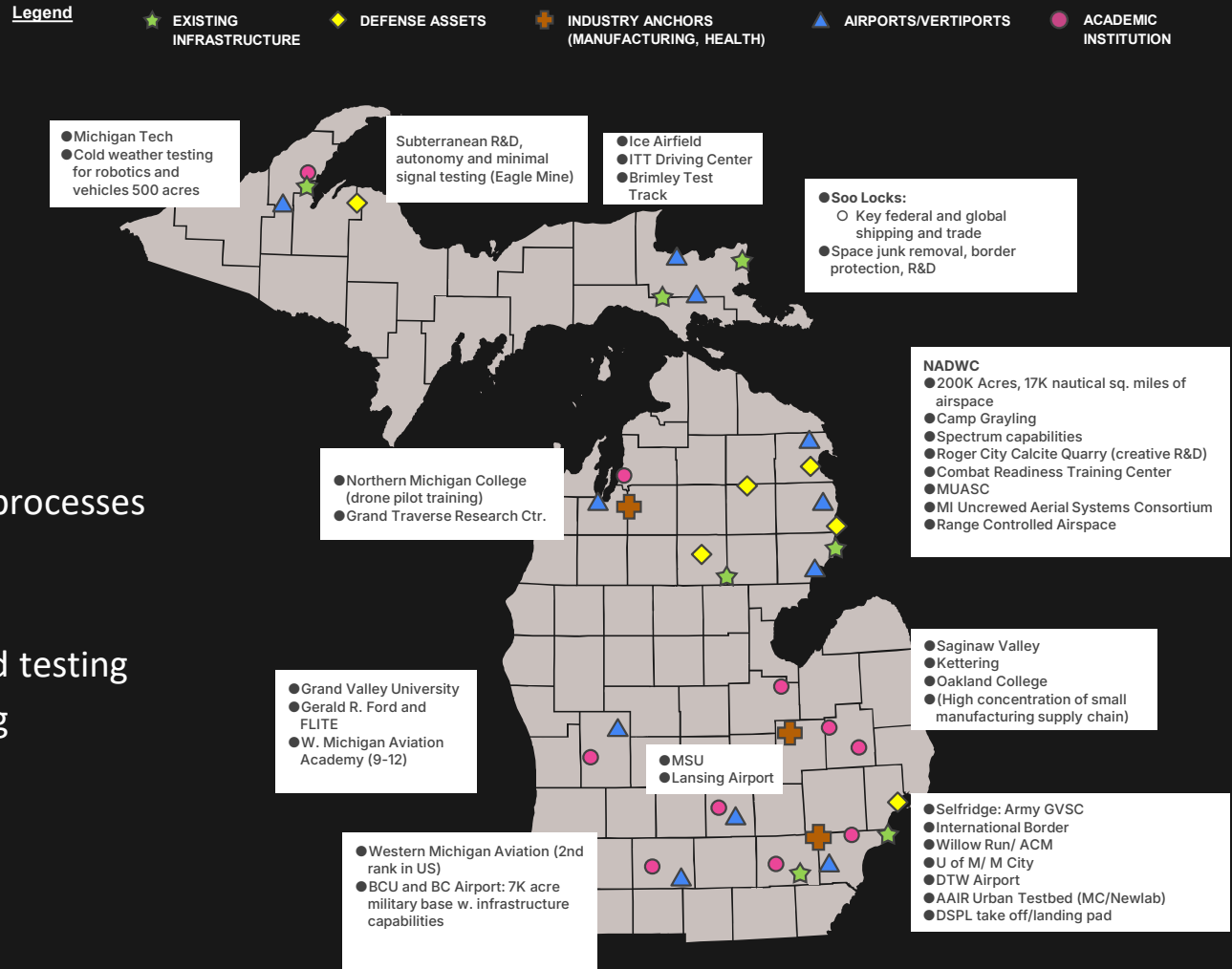
AAM-related
pilot jobs
needed by 2028



MICHIGAN AAM ASSETS

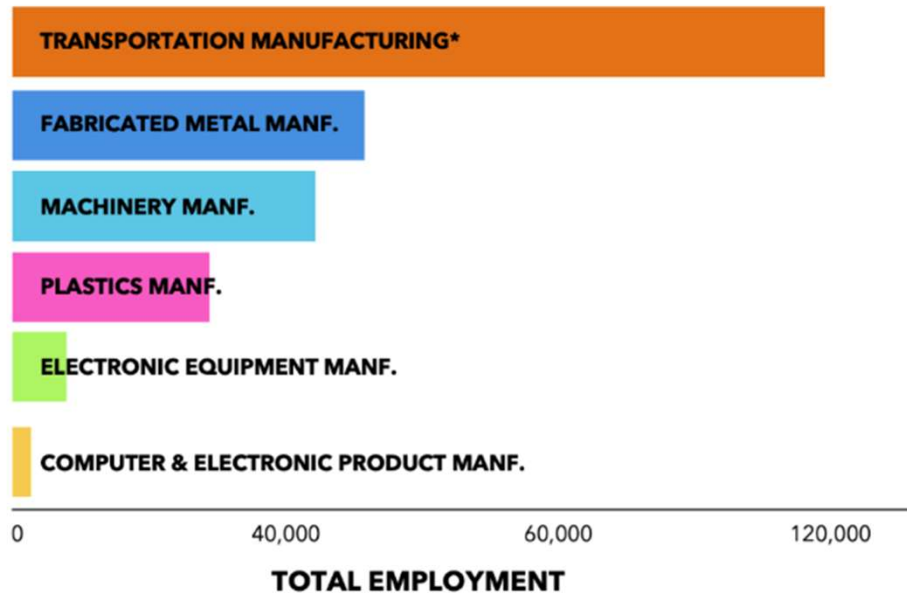
STATE HAS FOUNDATIONAL ASSETS TO ENABLE AN AAM ECOSYSTEM

- Defense infrastructure
- Proficiency in key drone manufacturing processes
- High-density of engineering talent
- All-weather testing
- Diverse environments for scenario-based testing
- Concentration of contract manufacturing
- Central location for logistics
- Available manufacturing capacity

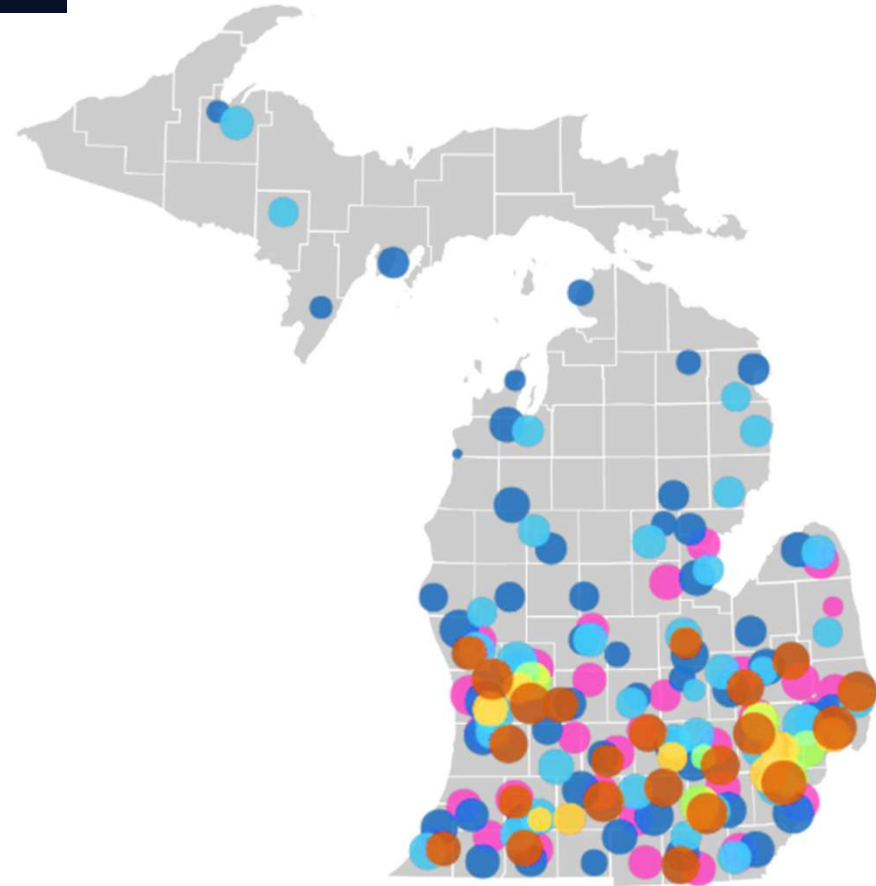


MICHIGAN AAM ASSETS -- MANUFACTURING

EXISTING SUPPLIER BASE CAN BE ACTIVATED TO SUPPORT RAPID SCALE-UP OF DRONES



*Includes automotive manufacturing, light duty truck, tanks, boats, aircraft parts, etc.



MICHIGAN AAM ASSETS -- DEFENSE

At 17,000 square miles and centered around Camp Grayling and the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, the **Michigan Airspace Complex is the largest overland military training airspace east of the Mississippi River.**

Michigan's defense industry contributes to:

- **\$30 billion** in economic activity
- **166,000** Michigan jobs
- **5,000** Michigan businesses serving the defense aerospace and homeland security industries

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MICHIGAN AAM ASSETS – TALENT & WORKFORCE

255,000

Skilled trades workers

#1

Concentration of engineers

#4

Total manufacturing employment

#9

Net new tech jobs



MICHIGAN AAM ASSETS – INFRASTRUCTURE

200+

Airports

3

Major international crossings

42

Automated aviation weather stations

15+

Licensed drone/vertiports

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BY 2030...

MICHIGAN'S AAM VISION



Michigan has the **highest concentration of AAM testing & deployments** in the nation

Michigan has **networked UAS infrastructure** to support scaled drone operations

Companies **scale from prototype to production** without leaving the state



Design-production cycle is faster than anywhere else

More high-growth drone companies than anywhere in the world



Michigan implements **first-of-a-kind statewide policies** to build the AAM market

Most competitive AAM talent



AAM STRATEGY

To realize our vision, the Partnership Departments will support the Michigan AAM ecosystem will deploy funding, develop programs, create policy, and mobilize resources around six strategies set forth in the Directive:

- 1. Scale AAM infrastructure and deployment capabilities**
- 2. Activate production capacity**
- 3. Drive public-sector use and commercial market growth**
- 4. Develop and scale the AAM workforce**
- 5. Build public understanding of AAM technologies**
- 6. Align state resources to pursue external funding opportunities**

AAM STRATEGIES & PROGRESS

SCALE INFRASTRUCTURE & TESTING

Objectives

- Expand standardized FAA approved corridors for BVLOS operations.
- Enable drone testing at key sites including existing aviation, commercial, and defense assets.
- Streamline access to defense assets for commercial and defense testing, demonstration, and evaluation.

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2025 Progress

- **9 deployments across Michigan defense assets**
 - Uncrewed Triple Challenge, NADWC UAS Corridor
- **9 active test sites across Michigan for AAM testing**
 - University of Michigan M-Air, Detroit Smart Parking Lab rooftop expansion, Chippewa County Operations Center, FLITE

AAM STRATEGIES & PROGRESS

ACTIVATE PRODUCTION CAPACITY

Objectives

- Identify resources to enable the extension of Michigan's existing manufacturers to produce AAM technologies and dual-use UAS components.
- Work with to strategically attract and scale AAM OEMs and component suppliers with clear long-term growth and job creation potential.

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2025 Progress

- **\$42 million+** facilitated by state of Michigan in public and private sector investment toward AAM-related initiatives in 2025
- **43 companies** actively manufacturing drones or drone components
 - Prototype grant, MI Hub for Manufacturers

AAM STRATEGIES & PROGRESS

DRIVE PUBLIC-SECTOR USE AND COMMERCIAL MARKET GROWTH

Objectives

- Enable UAS operations for emergency response, healthcare logistics, infrastructure inspection, supply chain resilience, and national security applications.
- Align state procurement practices to encourage fair evaluation of Michigan-built AAM technologies, ensuring best-in-class solutions are prioritized to maximize safety, efficiency, performance, and operational capability.
- Establish policies that promote the safe, accelerated use of AAM in state operations.



2025 Progress

- **4 AAM deployments in key public health and safety applications**
 - Traverse Connect Medical Drone Delivery, Statewide Challenges (upcoming), CVS Health Drone Medical Delivery Operation (awarded)

AAM STRATEGIES & PROGRESS

DEVELOP & SCALE THE AAM WORKFORCE

Objectives

- Develop and scale programs offering AAM specific certifications and skills through Michigan universities, community colleges, and vocational schools.

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2025 Progress

- Survey distributed to gather information around the state of AAM talent in Michigan and current challenges and opportunities present in the ecosystem.

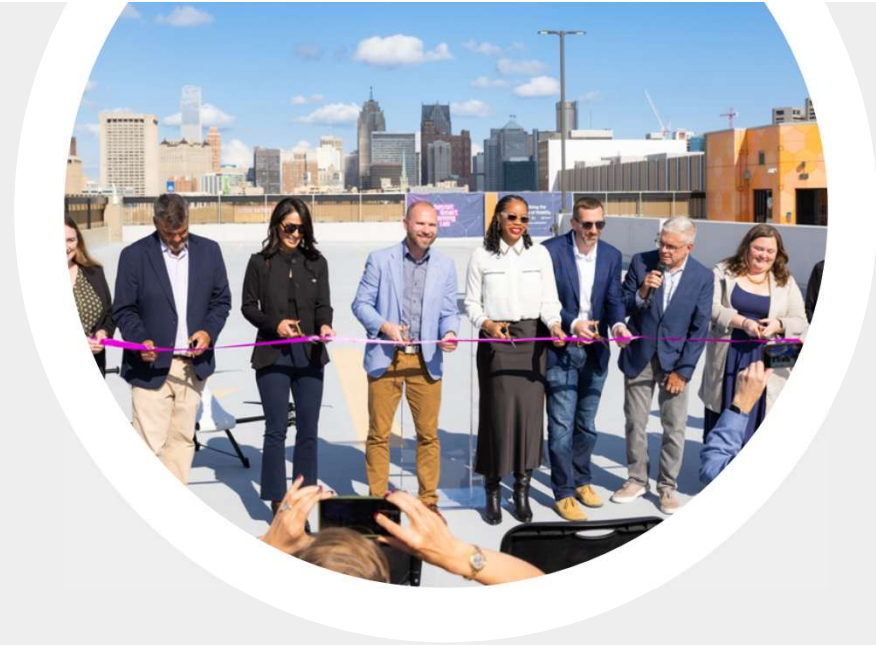
AAM STRATEGIES & PROGRESS

BUILD PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF AAM TECHNOLOGIES

Objectives

- Scale education and engagement strategies to build public trust in AAM technologies.
- Implement programs to ensure all communities—including rural and underserved areas—benefit from AAM technologies.

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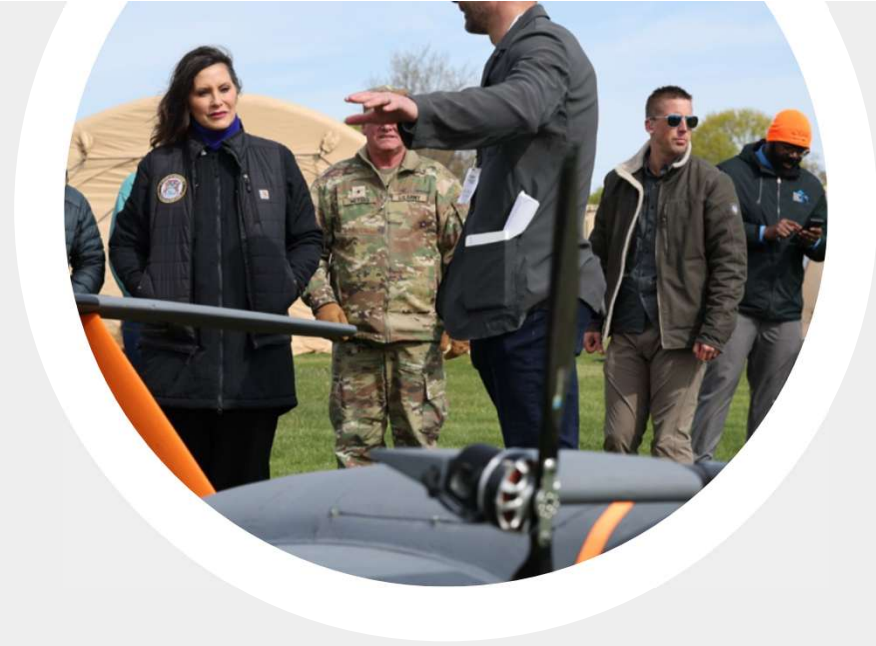
2025 Progress

- **44 public outreach events focused on raising awareness and improving knowledge around UAS and AAM topics**

AAM STRATEGIES & PROGRESS

ALIGN STATE RESOURCES TO PURSUE DIVERSE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Pursue external funding opportunities, including grants, tax credits, and reimbursements from the federal government, private sector, non-profit organizations, and/or philanthropic organizations.



2025 Progress

- **\$1.2 million+ AAM-related federal funds allocated in Michigan since July 2025**

ON THE HORIZON – UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES & PRIORITIES

Scale AAM Infrastructure & Deployment Capabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop requirements and oversight systems for UAS infrastructure interoperability. • Identify cross-border drone opportunities, including testing and real-world deployments.
Activate Production Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide targeted assistance to Michigan manufacturers to obtain AAM-related certifications, especially FAA approvals and those required for inclusion on the DoW Blue UAS Cleared List.
Drive Public Sector Use & Commercial Market Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand FAA-compliant digital and physical BVLOS public infrastructure for testing and deployments. • Continue support for statewide AAM challenges for drone technologies with procurement preferences for Michigan-made products & tech. • Develop proactive policy recommendations to inform state legislation on opportunities to attract, retain, and grow the AAM industry in Michigan.
Develop & Scale the AAM Workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop training and retooling programs to expand AAM manufacturing capabilities. • Leverage proven models to develop stackable credentials within apprenticeship and academic programs to ensure workers are ready for job opportunities within the emerging aviation industry.
Expand Public Understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with academic partners to ensure baseline AAM industry curriculum is taught to learners. • Educate and inform communities about the utility of UAS technology in public safety, healthcare, agriculture, defense, and logistics. • Amplify Michigan’s AAM capabilities and success stories.
Align State Resources to Pursue External Funding Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue private, philanthropic, and federal opportunities that align and augment the state’s AAM goals and activities. • Develop a revenue structure that can be generated from the use of AAM infrastructure and operations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION & TO READ THE FULL REPORT:

www.michiganbusiness.org/ofme/advanced-air-mobility/

