

Rheinisches Revier

Taking climate-neutral aviation to new heights

From electric aircraft to innovative materials and automated flying systems, a thriving ecosystem of innovation that is driving the development of climate-neutral aviation technologies is emerging. Explore the opportunities that await you in this dynamic region.

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1. Be part of a region that's exploring new horizons

The aviation industry stands at a crossroads. While global air traffic is predicted to nearly triple by 2050, the urgent need for decarbonization demands a radical shift towards sustainable practices. Rheinisches Revier, located in the west of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) at the heart of German industry, is meeting this challenge head on and transforming itself into a global hub for climate-neutral aviation. This region is not just adapting to the future of flight; it's actively shaping it.

Rheinisches Revier's strategic location in NRW – a major aviation hub with six international airports and 50,000 aviation employees – provides fertile ground for innovation. The region is leveraging its existing strengths, such as a highly skilled workforce and a robust research and development ecosystem, to attract international companies and investment in green aviation technologies. This commitment to sustainable aviation is more than just an economic strategy; it's a commitment to a greener future.

Three key locations in Rheinisches Revier form the foundation of this aviation revolution.



Würselen-Aachen: A unique research airfield

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A melting pot for both established companies and disruptive startups, this multi-modal mobility hub provides a unique environment for real-world testing and development. Renowned institutions like RWTH Aachen University offer cutting-edge research and a steady supply of graduates. Directly connected to the runway, the new Aero-Park Merzbrück will soon become the home of a range of companies and research institutions.

Mönchengladbach: The perfect real-world laboratory

Home to the largest general aviation airport in NRW, Mönchengladbach offers a practical testing ground for sustainable aviation technologies. This real-world laboratory allows companies to refine their innovations in a controlled but realistic environment, accelerating the transition from concept to commercialization.

Aldenhoven: Pioneering vertical mobility

The Future Mobility Park Aldenhoven is dedicated to exploring the future of vertical mobility, including automated and networked aviation systems. This cutting-edge facility provides the infrastructure and expertise necessary to develop and test the next generation of airborne transportation, paving the way for a more efficient and sustainable future.

2. Be part of a true aviation innovation ecosystem

Rheinisches Revier's exceptional infrastructure may be a major asset in preparing the runway for climate-friendly aircraft drives, UAS and automated flight systems. Even more important, Rheinisches Revier combines internationally renowned scientific institutions and forward-thinking companies building on the infrastructural foundation.

Application-oriented research

The Aachen region has gained a reputation as one of Germany's leading hubs for technical studies. Furthermore, its scientific institutions have close ties to the industrial sector.

RWTH Aachen

This German University of Excellence has its own Institute of Aerospace Systems (ILR) and an Institute of Flight System Dynamics (FSD), which also leads the so called EULE project (European UAV-assisted transportation solutions for medical goods). The RWTH will also be involved in the Production Launch Center at the Aero-Park Merzbrück, also through its spin-off Access, developing digitalized production processes for the aviation industry.

FH Aachen (Aachen University of Applied Sciences)	One of Germany's largest and most important universities of applied sciences, FH Aachen also helps shape the aviation sector in Rheinisches Revier. This is not least due to three studies: Aerospace Engineering, Vehicle and Propulsion Technology and Flight Operations Engineering with Commercial Pilot Training. FH Aachen's research areas include autonomous flying for drones and aircraft, alternative aviation fuels as well as electric and hybrid drive systems. Furthermore, it maintains the FH.AERO.Science research hangar.
Innovation Center for Small Aircraft Technologies (INK)	This facility operated by the German Aerospace Center (DLR) focuses on electric flight and (inter)urban mobility and aims to make passenger and freight transport more resource efficient and less noisy. To that end, it connects young scientists with strong partners and provides them with a research environment.

A diverse corporate landscape

Rheinisches Revier boasts a vibrant ecosystem of innovative companies driving the development of sustainable aviation technologies:

- ▼ **Access (RWTH Aachen spin-off):** Developing digitalized production processes and manufacturing cast parts from high-performance materials.
- ▼ **e.SAT GmbH:** Developing exceptionally quiet small electric aircraft to address noise pollution concerns.
- ▼ **FEV Group:** The automotive pioneer is developing sustainable drive systems, electronics and software for aerospace application.
- ▼ **Fibraworks:** Specializing in thermoplastic composite materials, crucial for lightweight and fuel-efficient aircraft.
- ▼ **flyXdrive GmbH:** Focusing on fully automated flight systems and 3D mobility solutions.
- ▼ **INFORM:** Optimizing business processes with digital decision-making, AI, and operations research.
- ▼ **Jetpel GmbH:** Developing ultra-quiet and eco-friendly aircraft powertrains with their innovative Jetpeller technology.

A connected region

Rheinisches Revier benefits from its proximity to key players in the aerospace industry, including the German Aerospace Center (DLR) in Cologne and AeroSpace.NRW. The presence of international airports in Düsseldorf and Cologne/Bonn further strengthens the region's position as a leading expertise-driven center of aviation.

3. Be part of a well-funded aeronautics transformation

Rheinisches Revier offers international companies and research institutions an exceptional environment to develop and deploy the next generation of sustainable

aviation technologies. NRW.Global Business's experts are ready to assist you in navigating this dynamic landscape and unlocking the vast potential of this burgeoning aviation hub. Attractive funding programs, such as STARK and Produktives.NRW. Both programs offer companies attractive conditions.

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up to

200

million euros for individual funding

Investment
share **eligible for
funding** up to

40 %

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