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Trade & Investment Agency

Get new technologies ready to take off

Rheinisches Revier: Pioneering the Future of Climate-Neutral Aviation

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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. This dynamic region offers extensive opportunities for growth and collaboration.



Be part of a region that is 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, which is 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.

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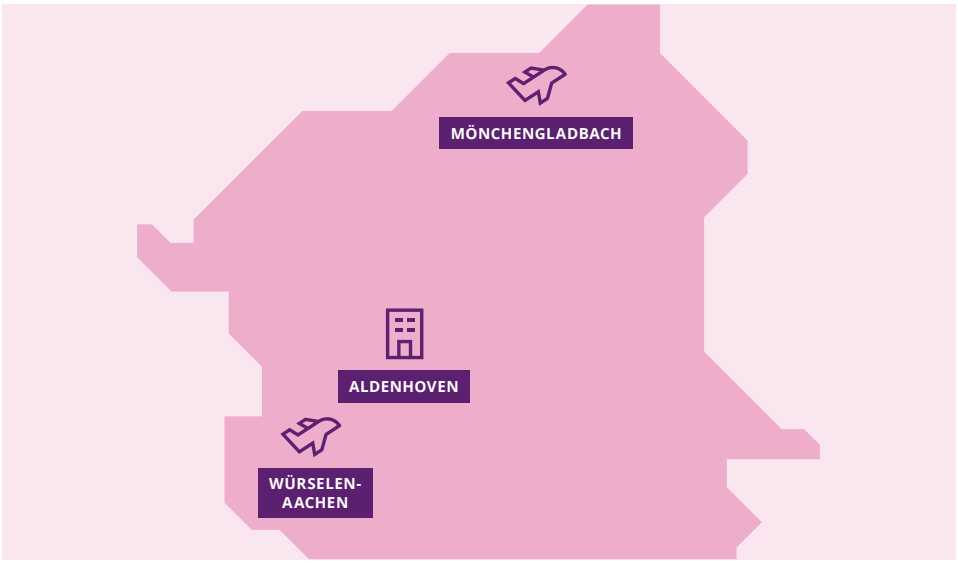
Three key locations in Rheinisches Revier form the foundation of this aviation revolution.



Würselen-Aachen: A unique research airfield

A melting pot for both established companies and disruptive startups, this multimodal 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.

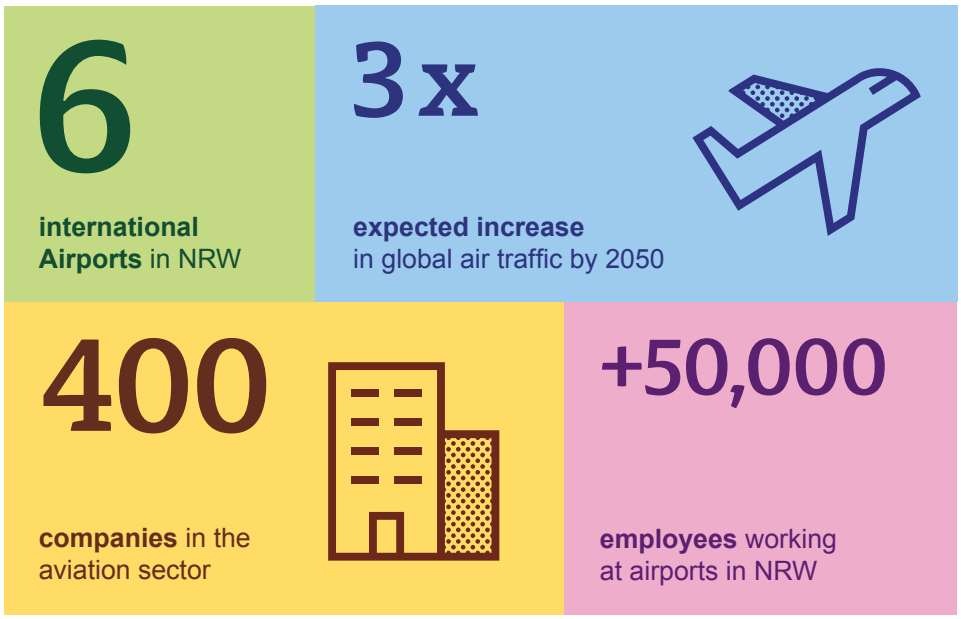
Mönchengladbach: The perfect real-world laboratory

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.

The scale of aviation in Rheinisches Revier and NRW



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.

Be part of a thriving corporate sector

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

Company	Role in the value chain	Description
4JET Gruppe	**Systems, equipment**	Develops and sells laser systems for cleaning, structuring, marking, cutting and modifying surfaces for industrial customers globally.
AET Aviation Training & Consulting GmbH	**Services (training, consulting)**	Prepares and coaches pilots via assessment training, license renewals, simulator preparation and airline selection services.

Air Energy GmbH & Co KG	**Components/ systems/energy**	Develops and produces custom lithium-ion battery systems, BMS electronics, welding and thermal modules for aerospace, mobility and industrial clients under product and contract agreements.
Alpha Air GmbH	**Services (MRO, aftermarket)**	Provides maintenance, repair, overhaul, modifications and parts sales for business aircraft.
Aps (Aviation Parts Service)	**Distribution/trading**	Distributes and sells aircraft spare parts globally (≈ 90,000 line items), offers component exchange and repair services.
ARC – Airport Research Center	**Technology/consulting**	Develops and licenses CAST airport planning and simulation software; delivers consultancy services under project contracts.
B&B – AGEMA GmbH	**Engineering/ consulting**	Provides CFD/FEM design, turbomachinery and power plant component simulation and consulting services under project contracts.
CAE Defence & Security	**Systems/training**	Develops and delivers simulation systems, mission/combat training and contracting services to defense customers globally under contracts.
Clean4Flight	**Services (aftermarket)**	Offers mobile cleaning, detailing, surface treatment services for fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters at airfields.
elite Jet Service GmbH	**Services (MRO, CAMO, sales)**	Performs maintenance, modifications, repairs, CAMO+ oversight, avionics and aircraft sales under service and contract offerings.
EurA AG	**Services/consulting**	Consults companies, research and public clients on innovation strategy, funding procurement and tech projects on service fees.
EUROMAT GmbH	**Processes/surface tech**	Provides advanced joining, coating, brazing, metallization, ultrasonics and surface treatments as services and small series product delivery.

FibreCoat GmbH	**Materials/components**	Produces metal-coated basalt and glass fibres for EMI shielding, sensor and lightweight markets.
Flughafengesell-schaft Mönchen-gladbach GmbH	**Infrastructure/ services (airport operations, ground services)**	Operates general aviation airport, leases hangars/office space, provides handling and infrastructure services.
flyXdrive GmbH	**Systems/integration**	Develops and operates autonomous UAV systems for data acquisition, medical logistics and rescue use, selling project systems and services.
GasTurb GmbH	**Software/consulting**	Develops and licenses GasTurb gas turbine performance software; provides consulting and support services in turbine simulation and analysis.
gemineers GmbH	**Software/platforms**	Licenses a digital twin platform for CNC machining, processes machine and sensor data, offers analytics and optimization SaaS contracts.
Hebmüller Aero-space	**Components/systems**	Designs, manufactures and distributes valves, couplings, hoses, heat exchangers and catalyzers for aerospace, hydrogen and industrial systems.
Heli NRW GmbH	**Services (flight training, charter)**	Sells helicopter pilot training, sightseeing flights, charter and aircraft rental.
INFORM GmbH	**Software/platforms**	Licenses AI-based decision intelligence and optimization software to enterprises; provides consulting, implementation and support contracts.
Jetpel GmbH	**Systems/propulsion**	Develops ultra-silent ducted propulsion systems (jetpeller); sells complete power-trains, components, integration support and certification consulting.

KSA Kugelstrahlzentrum Aachen GmbH	**Processes/ surface technology**	Develops automated peen forming (APF) and reshaping (APR) systems.
Lauscher Präzisionstechnik	**Components/ machining**	Manufactures precision CNC parts from titanium, high-strength steel, aluminium and plastics for aerospace and industrial clients under supply contracts.
MaTecK GmbH	**Materials/components**	Manufactures high-purity metallic, ceramic and oxide single crystals, sputter targets and alloys sold to research and production customers globally.
OWL AM GmbH	**Processing/ post-processing**	Offers hot isostatic pressing (HIP), powder metallurgy and additive manufacturing services including FEM and topology optimisation under project contracts.
Pronexos	**Components, systems, advanced manufacturing**	Manufactures CFRP rollers, precision tubes, EB welding, heat treatments, laboratory and process services under product and service contracts.
QinetiQ GmbH	**Services/systems**	Provides aerial training, test and evaluation, modification and repair oversight, avionics and sensor systems under contract services.
QME	**Services (certification, audit, MRO for small aircraft)**	Conducts audits, QM systems, trainings, inspections, and maintains light aircraft ≤ 2,730 kg.
Rheinland Air Service (RAS)	**Services (MRO, aftermarket, sales)**	Provides aircraft maintenance, fueling, aircraft sales, special mission conversions and support services under contracts.
Rodriguez GmbH	**Components, systems**	Manufactures precision bearings, linear guides and customized system modules for machines and vehicles under product and systems sales.
Schweitzer Ingenieur GmbH	**Components, systems & engineering**	Designs, engineers and manufactures UAV systems, sensor integrations, ground stations and STC kits sold to defense, research and commercial users.

TL Aviation GmbH	**Services (flight training/charter)**	Operates EASA-certified pilot training (PPL, CPL, IR, ATPL) and charters aircraft including simulator sessions.
Vertical Mission Training GmbH	**Services (training/simulation)**	Operates EASA-qualified helicopter VR motion simulators.
Vitrum Technologies	**Equipment/systems**	Designs, builds and sells precision glass-forming machines (isothermal and non-isothermal) and ancillary tooling under equipment and service contracts.
W. KÖPP GmbH & Co. KG	**Materials/components (foam, rubber, sealing)**	Produces and trades cellular rubber, polyethylene foam, sponge rubber, FIP(F)G sealing systems, filter materials and custom parts under product and service contracts.
Westflug Flight Training GmbH & Co. KG	**Services (training, charter)**	Offers pilot training (PPL, CPL, electric flight), aircraft charter and scenic flights under service & usage contracts.

Be part of ambitious projects

Rheinisches Revier is actively shaping the future of aviation through a variety of pioneering projects. These initiatives demonstrate the sector‘s immense potential, from exploring urban air mobility and ensuring airspace safety to developing climate-neutral propulsion and digital manufacturing.

ADIS	Develops an information system for the automatic identification and monitoring of drones through the exchange of navigation and flight data to enhance safety in urban airspaces.
DLR Future Fuels	Develops synthetic fuels made from air, water, and solar energy, which are expected to play a key role in the future energy system.
DLR Technologien für Kleinflugzeuge	Develops innovative technologies for electric flying to position the region as a pioneer of new mobility forms.
Fh.Aero Science	Develops climate-friendly aviation technologies, such as alternative propulsion, lightweight materials, and new flight procedures, in practice and tests them in practicedirectly at the aviation research airfield.

GRADE	Develops tools for risk assessment of drone flights over populated areas to enable safe, transparent, and environmentally friendly drone operations.
Production Launch Center Aviation	Develops state-of-the-art, automated, and scalable production processes focused on sustainable manufacturing technologies, aiming to strengthen jobs, coordination between research, and industrial cooperation in the region.
EULE	Develops drone systems to make the transport of medical goods such as medicines and tissue samples between hospitals, labs, and pharmaceutical wholesalers in the Rhenish region safe and efficient, including 5G-connected data management and integration into existing logistics and hospital processes.

Be part of strong clusters and networks

Industry, politics, and science are joining forces through dynamic clusters in virtually every part of the Rheinisches Revier – a significant advantage for investors looking to gain a foothold in the region. A prime example is **AeroSpace.NRW,** a network initiated by the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MWIDE) to boost the innovation and competitiveness of the region's aerospace industry. Viewing technological progress and requirements like climate protection as opportunities to tackle international competition, the network is actively developing an ecosystem for climate-neutral aviation in Rheinisches Revier. It supports key projects such as ECO²AIR, the Aviation Innovation Center, and the Center for Vertical Mobility.

Be part of a leading scientific ecosystem

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	Conducts cutting-edge research in aeronautics, propulsion, lightweight design, simulation, and automation. The university is a key partner in the Center for Vertical Mobility (CVM) and the Aviation Innovation Center (AIC).
FH Aachen – University of Applied Sciences	Combines strong practical orientation with applied aviation research and offers several aviation-focused degree programs. It is an active partner in the SkyTrack+ project and supports regional air mobility innovations.

Forschungszentrum Jülich (IEK-1)	Develops advanced materials and components for high-temperature technologies, including gas turbines in aviation. It operates the state-of-the-art Jülicher Thermal Spray Center for coatings using APS, HVOF, VPS, and other methods.
Fraunhofer IPT/ gemineers GmbH – Aachen	Focus on high-precision manufacturing technologies for aviation, especially digital process control and quality assurance. Their expertise includes „digital twin" technologies to support traceable and efficient component production.

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 Aero-Space.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.

Our services for investors

Rheinisches Revier's transformation is a high-priority political project, for which the German federal government and the state of NRW have set aside 14.8 billion EUR. Utilizing the massive tech expertise is pivotal for the region's development, so there is a variety of funding opportunities. NRW's trade agency NRW.Global Business helps investors get the most out of their options – long before and after their settlement.

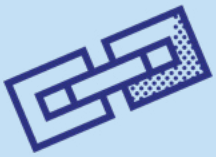
Consulting and planning

Consulting services regarding financial, real estate and networking questions



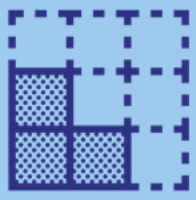
Location selection

Scouting for locations, shaping regional partnerships and support for identifying suitable funding instruments



Growth support after initial setup

Keeping track of companies' development and supporting them with expansion plans



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