

It felt a bit like things were getting back to normal. Spirits were high and discussions were plentiful at the 2022 Farnborough International Airshow. The first show back in many years. The events kicked off with an incredible reception with the Washington State Department of Commerce where Chris Green, Assistant Director for the Office of Economic Development and Competitiveness discussed Washington's commitment to the Aerospace industry through many programs such as the AAAC Committee and the ICAP Cluster awards.

The next day kicking off the first official day of the Airshow the team met in the Choose Washington State booth with multiple other delegates including our members Garry Clark of Economic Alliance Snohomish County, Arif Ghose of Paine Field, Mark Behrends of Pioneer Industries, Daniele Cagnatel of Sekisui Aerospace and many more. Traffic remained high at the booth as the heat sweltered outside capturing the highest temperatures ever on record there.

New technologies were on display throughout the halls, which included eVTol, Space, Defense and commercial space. In addition to new flying technologies on display, there were many opportunities to engage with new training and manufacturing technologies such as AR/VR. Our CEO, Nikki Malcom visited with many booths to engage in learning about those new technologies and how they can help our members be more competitive. She also engaged with multiple international aerospace clusters throughout the world to learn more about developing successful clusters.

Confidence was high about the return of activity in aerospace, but a lot of uncertainty still remained about the supply chain and workforce woes that many are facing in the U.S. and many places throughout the world. The spirit of collaboration was abundant throughout, with everyone understanding that the best way to get through the challenges is to work together to find solutions.

Once the airshow concluded, the delegation arranged tours of Boeing Sheffield as well as the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre where the group was able to see the incredible work that is being done to advance manufacturing, including digitization, additive manufacturing, sustainable energy efforts, robotics, and automation. It was truly inspirational!

Thank you to the Washington State Department of Commerce for inviting us on this delegation!