



## Revitalizing our Nation's Aerospace Workforce

**The Aerospace Industries Association of America represents 300 aerospace manufacturing companies and a U.S. workforce of more than 635,000.**

**Our nation's space industry generates over \$38 billion dollars a year.**

**U.S. aerospace and aviation industries represent approximately 10 percent of the GDP.**

### BACKGROUND

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**Support of a robust U.S. engineering and science workforce will increase our competitiveness in math and science and will help our nation achieve its space goals by developing new talent that can see these long-term missions through completion.**

As the U.S. embarks on a new space exploration program, it must support development of the talent required to complete its missions. Many new technical and scientific skills will be needed to manage, develop, deploy, and implement these projects.

The aerospace industry must remain highly trained. Our nation needs to have a strategy to address looming workforce shortage issues to maintain and bolster our competitive edge.

### ISSUES

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- The U.S. graduates far fewer baccalaureate engineers each year than China or India.
- 20 percent of graduating engineering students in the U.S. are foreign nationals, many of whom return to their home country to apply their skills.
- Indications show that demand for engineering talent will increase sharply over the next five years. One large aerospace firm estimates their company alone will need 10,000 new engineers a year.
- The aerospace workforce is aging and 28 percent of aerospace workers are eligible to retire by 2008.

- The U.S. faces shortages of both qualified math and science teachers (especially in grades 7-12) and in non college-bound students pursuing aerospace related vocational training.

### RECOMMENDATION

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**Congress must create incentives to improve math, science, and engineering education and increase the number of Americans studying and teaching these subjects, to help build and sustain the talent required to implement our nation's long term space goals.**



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