

Aviation Entrepreneur

Have you ever wondered who makes airplanes fly?

Some would immediately focus on the pilot, others might say the mechanics, and others might offer the flight attendants, without whom commercial aviation could not exist. When one looks beyond flight, there are hundreds of specialty trades that support aviation in all areas and without each and every one of them, airplanes, airlines, and the traveling public simply could not fly. The headline grabbing airlines, with their layoffs, restructuring and huge losses, represents only a fraction of the aviation industries. There are literally hundreds of trades and specialties that represent successful, profit making endeavors. This magazine is dedicated to them: the entrepreneurs that make up the aviation industry – beyond flight.

Aircraft manufacturing, support and infrastructure businesses comprise the modern aviation industry.

The aircraft manufacturers include companies like Boeing and Airbus; Cessna and Cirrus; Piper and Mooney; and about a dozen or so other major manufactures. But it also includes independent component manufactures that design, produce and manufacture the components that are used to assemble the aircraft.

In day's past aircraft may have been hand made from propeller to rudder but today, aircraft are "assembled" from pieces and parts manufactured from all around the world. They are assembled in smaller sub-assemblies and then shipped, or flown in many cases, for final assembly at a central location like Everett, Washington or Wichita, Kansas.

The support businesses of aviation include dozens of different types of organizations from Fixed Base Operators (FBO), who provides fuel and other logistical support for aircraft and owners, to maintenance providers who maintain the aircraft, parts suppliers, software companies, various kinds of aircraft management companies, and, yes, to business journals and magazines.

The infrastructure of the industry is supported by many of the same types of businesses you find outside of the airport fence line. There are paving companies who specialize in runways, line marking companies who specialize in runway and taxiway markings, and tank companies who specialize in aviation fuel tank farms and fuel distribution systems.

The airports are small communities with the service needs of any small community: pavers, janitors, shopkeepers, and street sweepers, the aviation infrastructure uses them all. You could look to the businesses in your local community and find just about every business category with an aviation focus, from landscaping to catering, from office management to maintenance, from detailing to finance in and around the airport. Aviation is a micro-economy all of its own.

Aviation businesses are unique though; aviation products and services are regulated in a way that the businesses in your local community may not be. It is the goal of *Aviation Entrepreneur* magazine to provide you, the reader, with information vital to starting and running a successful aviation related business.

As you start and run your business, we are here to assist you. If you have any regulatory question about aviation, industrial safety and health, environmental stewardship or business question please do not hesitate to contact us – ask us the question. We will do our best to connect you with the information you need to make sound, solid business decisions.

I have been in the aviation industry for over 35 years and cannot imagine working in any other industry. I love aviation! I have experienced the excitement and energy of flight as well as the quiet solitude of an airport at sunrise. Aviation is a mixture of entrepreneurs and adventurers; a unique blend of the independent spirit and dependant faith in your co-workers; and the marriage of science and passion. *Aviation Entrepreneur* magazine is here to promote the aviation trades: my passion – my trades.

Beginning on October 1, 2008, *Aviation Entrepreneur* magazine will provide weekly news updates, articles essential to aviation business leaders and articles to inspire. We will cover aviation business news as well as feature articles on a range of topics from regulations to resources, from business issues to new technology, to profiling aviation entrepreneurs. *Aviation Entrepreneur* goes beyond flight – it's new and it is written for you!

Aviation Entrepreneur magazine is here to promote aviation to the leaders of tomorrow as well as support, and assist the aviation business leaders of today.

Let me know how I can support you.

Ric Peri

CEO/Editor-in-Chief
Aviation Entrepreneur Magazine