

North Wind Breaks Ground on Aerospace & Hypersonic Research and Testing Complex to Advance Critical U.S. Capabilities

Minnesota center will pair independent testing expertise with research and a growing aerospace workforce to modernize ground-testing infrastructure

ROSEMOUNT, MN, UNITED STATES, August 13, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [North Wind](#), an independent leader in aerospace testing, today broke ground on the North Wind Aerospace & Hypersonic Research and Testing Complex (AHRTC). The \$1+ billion state-of-the-art facility will support aerospace and hypersonic research and testing at UMore Park in Rosemount.

Ground testing provides the evidence engineers and decision-makers need before undertaking complex and costly flight tests. A [U.S. Government Accountability Office report](#) found that U.S. hypersonic wind-tunnel infrastructure is aging and is unable to meet the nation's demand signals. The report also emphasized that wind tunnels are essential for testing components and validating designs before flight. The AHRTC is designed to help meet a national need for modern ground-testing infrastructure.

"Technology has never moved faster. Our ability to field these advancements needs to keep pace," said Dr. Artie Mabbett, CEO of North Wind. "Digital engineering has promised to accelerate aerospace design, but the integration of the physical and digital domains through AI-enabled technologies can truly unlock our national advantage in fielding overmatch capabilities. The North Wind AHRTC will help close that gap by integrating advanced testing infrastructure with AI-enabled digital ecosystems."

"Advanced aerospace systems depend on rigorous ground testing to move from promising designs to proven capability," said George Rumford, director of the Department of Defense Test



Mayor Jeff Weisensel, Rep. Brad Finstad, Sen. Amy Klobuchar, Rep. Betty McCollum, George Rumford, Dean Andrew Alleyne, Deputy Commissioner Kevin McKinnon, State Sen. Bobby Joe Champion, State Rep. Dave Baker, Don Mullin, Derek Cunz and North Wind Board Member Steve Cook



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*Dr. Artie Mabbett, CEO of
North Wind*

Resource Management Center. “The AHRTC will provide the tools and test data needed to identify risks earlier, accelerate learning and advance technologies critical to U.S. national security.”

North Wind has decades of direct experience delivering highly specialized wind-tunnel infrastructure for the nation’s aerospace missions. The company played a significant technical design role in delivering NASA’s new

[Flight Dynamics Research Facility at Langley Research Center](#), the agency’s first major wind tunnel built in more than 40 years.

Minnesota’s Aerospace Advantage

North Wind selected Minnesota for its engineering talent and world-class university research. The company currently operates a wind-tunnel facility in Plymouth, Minnesota. Its partnership with the University of Minnesota connects the AHRTC with leading computational hypersonic research and advanced modeling and simulation.

The state’s culture of public-private collaboration has also helped create a growing aerospace and advanced-technology ecosystem capable of supporting the national mission.

The project will return a long-underused portion of UMore Park to productive use while creating construction and skilled-trades opportunities. Over time, it will also support careers in engineering, research and test operations, along with other STEM fields. North Wind will work with partners across the state to strengthen the regional talent pipeline.

“This is a win for Minnesota and for the country,” said Peter Frosch, president and CEO of the GREATER MSP Partnership. “North Wind’s investment establishes an anchor for Minnesota’s next economy. It will strengthen our innovation ecosystem and create new opportunities as the state renews its national leadership in cutting-edge technology.”

Development of the AHRTC is supported through a public-private partnership that combines federal and state support with private investment. North Wind finalized its purchase of the 60-acre site in December 2025.

About North Wind

North Wind is an independent national security capability accelerator that advances mission-critical systems from concept to operational readiness with greater speed, confidence and affordability. By integrating state-of-the-art physical infrastructure with advanced digital capabilities, North Wind accelerates innovation across the full capability lifecycle. From design

and manufacturing through flight systems and lifecycle testing, this integrated approach reduces technical risk and shortens the path to operational capability.

North Wind partners with government, industry, academia and national laboratories to solve complex aerospace, space and national security challenges. The company is headquartered in Arlington, Virginia with operations in St. Paul, Minnesota, Newport News, Virginia, and Ronkonkoma, New York. Learn more at www.north-wind.com.

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