



**Aerospace Industries Association
Annual Meeting
Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer
Thursday, November 19, 2009**

Thank you, Bob, and good evening to all of you!

I am pleased to be able to welcome you to Arizona -- and tell you a little about what's going on in the Grand Canyon State.

Arizonans take great pride in the important programs that reside in our state -- such as Raytheon Missile Systems.

The Tucson plant is the only facility in the country that can produce fully-assembled missiles from start to finish for all U.S. and allied military customers.

It helps keep our troops safe in Iraq and Afghanistan, while protecting our homeland from unstable regimes abroad.

NASA's next generation space shuttle mission will feature critical technology advances created by Paragon Space Development Corporation -- including the first new space suit in over 30 years.

Tucson's Paragon is also working on essential life support systems for NASA's Orion Exploration Vehicle.

It is also working with the U.S. Navy on a specialized suit and helmet to protect divers in contaminated waters.

The bigger players in the Arizona aerospace industry include companies such as Boeing -- General Dynamics -- and Lockheed Martin.

I am proud of the fact that Arizona ranks in the top 10 for related aerospace exports in the United States.

But, to remain successful in the global marketplace, we are re-thinking areas of our tax structure that to ease the burden on our employers, particularly those who require large capital investments, such as manufacturing.

Thanks to the leadership of Bob Johnson and the creation of the Arizona Aerospace Institute, we are on the right path to expanding this critical component of Arizona's economy.

Bob recruited some of Arizona's finest -- and even pulled in some national aerospace leaders -- to help advise how to make the Institute meaningful for your industry.

The connections of these leaders – around Arizona and nationally – have already led to some important partnerships for our future.

This group has energized our State's leadership to make Arizona more attractive to expanding and growing aerospace companies – and is working to enhance our educational system to ensure that a highly qualified pipeline of mechanics, technicians and engineers are ready to work for you.

The Institute will also provide long term research and development opportunities for public and private entities alike.

Leveraging the existing talent and programs of our universities, the Aerospace Institute will be able to deliver world class research to its partners.

So, allow me to extend a personal invitation to each of you this evening. If you see an issue we should know about or where we can help you – let us know.

If you are looking to grow your plant here or bring a new project to a state – call us and let us show you why Arizona is the right place for you and your employees.

So, I thank you for the opportunity to spend some time with you this evening.

I thank you for coming to Arizona, and I wish you all a productive meeting, and safe travels back to your homes and families.

Thank you.