Airco is a nearly 128-acre former golf course adjacent to the St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport (PIE). A planned redevelopment project will permit a future mix of aviation, commercial office and light manufacturing uses.

A 117.8-acre portion of the golf course is zoned to include 45 acres for future aviation uses and 72.8 acres dedicated to business park development. The southernmost 10 acres of the golf course will now permit commercial uses such as restaurant and hotel development. A 46.5-acre parcel that lies between the Feather Sound Community and Airco will serve as a green-area buffer.
Business Expansion:

Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Program (QTI) is for companies that create high wage jobs in targeted, high value-added industries. This incentive returns a portion of taxes paid by the business after the company meets its job creation and wage commitments. Pre-qualified businesses receive tax refunds of $3,000 per net new-to-Florida job. Additional “per job” bonuses are available for businesses paying 150% or more of the average annual wage.

Industrial Revenue Bonds (IRB) are tax-free, below-market-rate, long term financing of fixed assets for qualified manufacturers and 501 (c) 3 non-profits. IRB’s are issued by local governments on behalf of private companies to finance land, building and equipment. IRBs cannot be used for inventory or working capital. $1 million is considered the minimum to be economically feasible with a $10 million maximum.

Ad Valorem Tax Exemptions (AVTE) can abate County property taxes for qualifying target industry employers that are expanding within or relocating to Pinellas. The exemption can be granted for up to 10 years on new equipment and improvements to facilities and must be approved by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners.

Sales Tax Exemptions for Manufacturers:
- Electricity
- R&D
- Machinery
- Aviation

Foreign Trade Zone 193:

Foreign Trade Zone 193 was created to enhance U.S. production and job opportunities by deferring, reducing or eliminating payment of duties, eliminating formal customs entries, removing duty on goods processed and exported from the zone, as well as materials and parts used in production. Additional benefits include a reduction in federal excise taxes and elimination of quota restrictions.

Workforce Training:

Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) provides training to existing employees for the purpose of maintaining competitiveness and business retention. Training can be conducted at the business facility, a training provider’s facility or a combination of sites. Florida businesses must have been in operation for at least one year, have at least one full-time employee and require training for existing employees. Businesses must provide a matching contribution to the project.

Quick Response Training (QRT) is for entry-level skills training that is limited to 24 months or less and can be conducted at the business’ own facility, at the training provider’s facility or at a combination of sites. Eligible projects are new or expanding existing Florida businesses that produce exportable goods or services, create new permanent, full-time jobs and employ Florida workers who require customized entry-level skills training.

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Specializing in the industries of
Aviation & Aerospace, Defense, Homeland Security
and Manufacturing