Industry Overview
Pinellas County is home to four major military installations - US Coast Guard Air Station, US Army Reserve MEDEVAC, Florida National Guard 48th WMD CST, Army National Guard 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team – Only miles from MacDill Air Force Base (6th Air Mobility Wing for airlift and refueling) which also hosts U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command. Some unique industry specializations include: military forensics, geospatial intelligence, radio frequency systems and improvised explosive device detection.

Workforce
- 40,000 direct and indirect jobs are related to Pinellas’ defense sector employment.
- 90,000 veterans call Pinellas County home.
- Pinellas has the largest manufacturing employee base among eight Tampa Bay counties, and has the second largest manufacturing employee base in the State of Florida.
- Workforce training is available through Pinellas Technical College and St. Petersburg College, and includes CNC machining, welding, mechatronics, and supply chain management. AmSkills (AmSkills.org), the German apprenticeship model, National Aviation Academy and the College Alliance for Advanced Manufacturing (CAAM) are key sources for workforce training and development for Pinellas-based employers.

Defense industry leaders choose Pinellas County, the ideal base of operations for growth and exports.

The United States Coast Guard Air Station at Clearwater is the largest and busiest air station in the Coast Guard.

Pinellas Industry Leaders
- DRS Technologies
- Field Forensics
- GE Aviation
- General Dynamics Ordnance
- Honeywell International
- Jabil Circuit
- L-3 Communications
- Lockheed Martin
- National Forensics Science Technology Center
- Raytheon
Unclassified Test Bed - Pinellas County
The unclassified Test Bed provides a comprehensive research, development, test and evaluation capability for USSOCOM, focused on cutting-edge intelligence and information systems technologies that can be quickly and cost-effectively vetted for the warfighter. Located 12 miles from MacDill Air Force Base in St Petersburg, the focus is on innovative results.

Contracts Awarded to Employers with a Pinellas County location (2014)
- 2,074 prime U.S. Dept. of Defense (DoD) contracts
- $531.6 million in contracts awarded
- 36% of the region's DoD awards

Subcontractor Awards
- 31 contracts, totalling $16,602,257
- 74% of the region's subcontractor awards

Florida Sales & Use Tax Exemptions:
- Machinery and equipment used by a new or expanding Florida business to manufacture, produce or process tangible personal property for sale
- Labor, parts and materials used in repair of and incorporated into machinery and equipment
- Electricity and steam used in the manufacturing process
- Certain boiler fuels (including natural gas) used in the manufacturing process
- Semiconductor, defense and space technology-based industry transactions involving manufacturing equipment
- Machinery and equipment used predominantly in research and development
- Labor component of research and development expenditures
- Space industry— real property, launch vehicles, payloads and fuel, machinery and equipment for production of items used at Spaceport Florida, direct and overhead materials, space laboratories and carriers
- Aircraft parts, modification, maintenance and repair, sale or lease of qualified aircraft

Business Expansion Incentives:
- Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Program (QTI)
- Economic Development Transportation Fund
- Industrial Revenue Bonds (IRB)
- Ad Valorem Tax Exemptions
- Brownfield Redevelopment Bonuses
- Expedited Permitting Fee Waiver
- Foreign Trade Zones
- Urban Job Tax Credit / HUB Zone Incentives

Defense Industry Organizations
- Florida Defense Contractors Association: FL-DC.com
- National Defense Industry Association: TampaBayNDIA.org
- Space Florida: SpaceFlorida.gov
- Tampa Bay Defense Alliance: TampaBayDefenseAlliance.com
- Women in Defense: Widgtb.com