

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AeroShield Alliance Establishes Mississippi Headquarters

Expansion Positions Alliance Partners to Scale Public-Sector Infrastructure Technology

CANTON, MISSISSIPPI — March 23, 2026 — The AeroShield Alliance, a new national consortium of small businesses, announced today they are establishing their base in Mississippi, expanding their footprint in infrastructure technology and positioning the consortium to scale its public-sector solutions platform.

The initiative represents a significant opportunity to bring advanced technology and workforce development to rural Mississippi. Through collaboration with Holmes Community College and local government leaders, the Alliance is working to introduce cutting-edge tools such as AI (artificial intelligence), drone-based data collection and infrastructure analytics to communities that have traditionally had limited access to emerging technologies.

Leaders involved in the effort say the goal is not only to improve public infrastructure but also to create new career pathways and technology-focused jobs for residents across the region.

Alliance President Deborah Martin, who also serves as CEO of Service Specialists LLC of Canton, said the Alliance selected Mississippi because of its business-friendly environment, access to skilled talent and strong opportunities to collaborate with government leaders, higher education institutions and private industry.

“The Alliance’s mission is to deliver better results for government agencies, reduce costs for taxpayers and streamline procurement by deploying proven emerging technologies across federal, state, and local government operations,” Martin said. “Together, our member companies have developed solutions in infrastructure intelligence, aerial data collection, advanced weather analytics, workforce development and emergency preparedness.

Martin noted that the Alliance’s member firms collectively have been awarded more than \$100 million in government contracts serving agencies including the U.S. Department of War, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Intelligence Community and the U.S. Forest Service.

The AeroShield Alliance will co-locate with Service Specialists in new offices currently under construction in Madison County, with a workforce based both in Mississippi and across the country through remote operations.

Alliance co-founder and CEO of Alliance member Aero Velocity Mark Hastings said Mississippi’s collaborative leadership environment was a key factor in the decision.

“One of the factors in our decision to choose Mississippi is a powerful collaboration with Holmes Community College and the Holmes County Board of Supervisors,” Hastings said. “With strong support from Mississippi’s United States Senators Cindy Hyde-Smith and Roger Wicker, we recently launched the Rural Transportation Resilience Center, a new nonprofit initiative that will be located on the Holmes Community College campus in Goodman.”

The Center’s mission aligns with the national ROUTES program — Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success — launched during President Trump’s first administration. Initial proposed funding would deploy the Alliance’s artificial intelligence technology to conduct automated roadway and bridge inspections and condition assessments across more than 70,000 linear miles of county and municipal roads in Mississippi.

Hastings serves as CEO of Aero Velocity Inc. of Ohio, a company that designs and manufactures American-made, NDAA-compliant UAVs and operates a growing Drones-as-a-Service (DaaS) platform for commercial and government clients. The company has existing ties to Mississippi through partnerships supporting Jackson State University and Minority Farmers of the South, headquartered in Vicksburg, among others.

If proposed U.S. Department of Transportation grants are awarded, the AeroShield Alliance, along with its member companies, including Service Specialists and Aero Velocity, plans to establish training programs in drone operations and artificial intelligence applications for approximately 200 Mississippi residents, while supporting the creation of approximately 100 full-time and part-time jobs over the next three years.

For more information, please contact Valerie Mueller at vmueller@aeroshieldalliance.com or visit: <http://www.aeroshieldalliance.com>.

About AeroShield Alliance

The AeroShield Alliance is a national consortium of innovative small businesses dedicated to delivering advanced technology solutions to federal, state and local governments. Alliance members specialize in infrastructure intelligence; aerial data collection using unmanned aircraft systems; artificial intelligence analytics, workforce development; and emergency preparedness services. By combining proven technologies with experienced government contractors, the Alliance helps public-sector agencies improve operational efficiency, strengthen infrastructure resilience and accelerate the deployment of modern solutions that benefit communities across the United States.

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