

Governor Mike Pence

GE Aviation Jobs Announcement, Lafayette

March 26, 2014

It is a great day to be a Hoosier and Boilermaker, isn't it? It's a great day for Indiana and it's a joy to be with all of you today. To David Joyce, CEO of GE Aviation, and Tony Aiello, Vice President; to members of the Indiana General Assembly, so well represented here; to local officials; to President Daniels and everyone of the Purdue family; to my fellow Hoosiers... It is my honor to welcome the world's largest jet engine manufacturer to the heart of the heartland, the State of Indiana. GE Aviation, we are excited to have you here.

Today, GE Aviation proves once again that Indiana is open for business, and Indiana is a state that works. By choosing Indiana for its new jet engine facility, GE Aviation has recognized Indiana's great strengths: our tradition in manufacturing, education, and innovation, especially our focus on world class higher education and workforce. For decades, our industry and academic institutions have been developing the big ideas, the new technologies, and Hoosier workers have been bringing those big ideas to life and delivering them all across the world. In the near future, that's certainly going to be true with GE Aviation.

But let me say as we worked closely, David, with your team and Tony and all the rest, I think Indiana is always a good decision. When you look at Indiana's record, you realize GE Aviation's decision to come to the Hoosier state did not require a leap of faith. Even in these difficult days, Indiana has balanced budgets and strong reserves, is one of the few states in America with a AAA bond rating from all of the major credit rating agencies, has a sound infrastructure, a commitment to education innovation, a higher education system that is second to none, and we're a right to work state. In addition, last year we passed the largest tax cut in Indiana history, and yesterday, I signed tax reform that will give communities more tools to encourage investment and make Indiana the second lowest corporate tax rate state in the United States of America. That's what we mean when we say Indiana is a state that works, and it's going to work for GE Aviation for many years to come.

Now moments like this are important in many ways, and I think it's also important to give credit where credit is due. First and foremost, let me express my heartfelt appreciation to GE Aviation for your professionalism and your willingness to look at the Hoosier State as a site for this first final assembly plant for your new LEAP engine. It's extraordinary to think that this engine behind me is 002. With 6,000 orders already in queue, this one is going to have a lot of brothers and sisters really soon, and a whole bunch of them are going to be made right here in the state of Indiana. I couldn't be more excited.

We are grateful for your team for opening the door to Indiana, and letting us have the opportunity to tell our story. Secondly, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to the state's entire economic development team. Not just the capable team at the Indiana Economic Development Corporation and our Department of Commerce, but here in Indiana, as GE Aviation learned, we all work together at every level. So let me express my appreciation to members of the General Assembly who strongly supported our economic development efforts, to local officials like Mayor Tony Roswarski, who's with us here today who worked in close partnership with us, to local commissioners, and all of those at every level who from the very first contact in June of last year with GE Aviation worked together to make this a reality. Every Hoosier should be grateful to every man and woman that told our story to GE Aviation, and I certainly am.

Also, let me express my heartfelt appreciation to the entire team here at Purdue University. Let me be clear, today's announcement would not have been possible without the rich tradition and active engagement of Purdue University and President Mitch Daniels, thank you for your contribution to this community and this state. As GE Aviation already knows, Purdue has a tradition in flight and engineering, from Amelia Earhart to Neil Armstrong. From Purdue University, Americans for generations have reached the skies and the stars, and, thanks to the confidence and investment of GE Aviation, that tradition at Purdue University and this community will continue and grow for generations come.

Finally, and lastly, I believe the credit for a day like today ultimately belongs to the people of Indiana. GE Aviation just described how rigorous a process they go through in making their decisions about investments, and we certainly can testify to that. Their decision to locate a new \$100 million dollar jet engine facility creating up to 200 new, good paying jobs by 2020 is a tribute, mostly, to the reputation and the character of the hard-working people of the state of Indiana. Modesty, diligence, generosity, faith, a commitment to family, a commitment to teamwork, a pride in craftsmanship and excellence are all synonymous with the character of the people of our state. So join me in thanking the people of Indiana, to whom most of the credit for this day truly belongs

So on their behalf, to GE Aviation, on behalf of all the great people of the great state of Indiana, I say from the bottom of my heart, thank you for believing in our people, thank you for believing in this community and in our state. Indiana won't let you down. Now let's go build some engines!