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## Aviation business to create hundreds of jobs near BHM Airport

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A growing company in the aviation industry has landed in the Magic City.

Stewart Industries International said it will create at least 200 jobs with a new aircraft repair and storage operation at the former Kaiser Aircraft facility located adjacent to Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport. The company said there is a possibility of increasing to 500 jobs in a short amount of time.

The announcement represents a major new employer to the Birmingham area locating at a highly visible location that brings more activity and exposure to the city's airport. Stewart Industries is a maintenance, repair and operating supply company, also called an MRO.

The Birmingham Airport Authority, the city of Birmingham, the Birmingham Business Alliance, the Alabama Commerce Department, Graham & Co., and Kaiser Aircraft Industries were all involved in Stewart Industries' expansion into Birmingham.

Jack Brown and Ogden Deaton of Graham & Co. have been marketing the Kaiser site, a 180-acre, 1.7-million-square-foot site, since 2014. Prior to Kaiser's operations at the site, it was previously home to Alabama Aircraft Industries Inc. before its bankruptcy.

"We have reviewed many proposals during the three and one-half years that our facility has been closed, but our objectives have now been met with the arrival of Stewart Industries International," said Doris Sewell, CEO of Kaiser Aircraft Industries. "In our opinion, Stewart Industries International Birmingham LLC has the potential to rapidly expand and to utilize the full Kaiser facility."

In addition to providing hiring preference for former Kaiser Aircraft employees, Stewart Industries plans to revive Kaiser's former program to train inner city school candidates for the aviation industry, Sewell said.

"Birmingham is excited to welcome Stewart Industries into our city," Mayor Randall Woodfin said. "Stewart Industries will not only help Birmingham to make a mark in the aviation industry, but open the door for hundreds of jobs as well."

The Birmingham facility will join SII's existing repair facility in Roswell, New Mexico and its parts facility in Oklahoma.



The former Kaiser Aircraft site near BHM will be home to Stewart Industries International, where it will perform airplane maintenance and repair work.

The company has an existing contract to work on maintenance of aircraft for [Delta Airlines](#), and president [Tom Stewart](#) told the BBJ that BHM's proximity to Atlanta was a big reason for choosing to locate here.

SII also works on maintenance of planes that are leased by ownership groups to various airlines, meaning planes will come to the Birmingham facility specifically for maintenance, heavy checks and reconfigurations.

"The rapid growth of online purchasing is driving this opportunity," Stewart said. "We are very excited about the growth potential possible at the Kaiser facility and humbled by the enthusiastic welcome we have received from the city of Birmingham and the Birmingham Airport Authority."

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