st mary's county
take flight

Experience the Advantage

in St. Mary's County, Maryland

Built for Unmanned and Autonomous Systems (UAS) Innovation

From Idea to Market

UAS companies, from startup to large-scale, are well-positioned for success in St. Mary's County. At the center of this is the Airport Innovation District, where applied UAS research can be commercialized and tested and the UAS industry can thrive.

A Local Industry Pushing for Growth

The County's Airport Innovation District is growing, fueled by a public-private partnership between the aviation industry, local real estate developers, the County, and Naval Air Station Patuxent River (NAS Patuxent River). The District offers a technical business park where companies develop, prototype, modify, and maintain aircrafts and aircraft components, higher education and research facilities such as the University of Maryland UAS Test Site, the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland, and the TechPort startup incubator.

A Major University Laboratory Devoted to UAS

The University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland will soon be home to a new 83,000 sq. ft., University System of Maryland UAS Academic and Research Building. This new facility will include new academic and conference space as well as several research laboratories entirely devoted to UAS on land, sea, and in the air. The facility will attract world-class researchers to St. Mary's County and will lead to a growth of UAS applied research and a highly trained workforce that private industry can leverage.

TechPort Technology Incubator

The technology incubator TechPort is focused on growing UAS startups and commercializing Navy technology. The incubator goes beyond traditional incubators by featuring workshop/lab space on site in addition to office space. Professionally managed by the University of Maryland, a leader in technology and innovation, the incubator provides mentorship, connection to resource providers and financing, and educational and networking opportunities.

A Top Tier Unmanned Aircraft Systems Test Site

The University of Maryland Unmanned Aircraft Systems Test Site is one of the busiest test sites in the country. The UAS Test Site has a track record of research in multiple UAS application areas including agriculture, public safety, disaster response, and counter-UAS. Whether you are a technology company, academic researcher, or government organization, the Test Site provides a first class facility and highly experienced personnel to test UAS vehicles and products in a secure environment.

Supreme UAS Location

St. Mary's County's unique location drives UAS innovators, testers, and researchers to the area:

- Close to the nation's capital but beyond D.C.'s restricted airspace
- Access to ideal flying and testing conditions
- Home to a one-of-a-kind research and development facility in NAS Patuxent River

Naval Air Station Patuxent River: A World Class Research and Development Facility

St. Mary's County's UAS companies have access and proximity to disruptive research and development occurring at NAS Patuxent River. NAS Patuxent River offers:

- A 14,500-acre facility that is the premier installation in the country for all naval aviation research, development, testing, and evaluation.
- Over 5,000 sq. miles of restricted airspace and 4,000 miles of unrestricted airspace.
- Five runways with the longest being 11,800 feet.
- Fully instrumented and integrated test ranges as part of the 2,700 sq. mile Atlantic Test Range.
- Over 300 laboratories that support the research, development, test, and evaluation of naval aircraft.
- Program offices and laboratories devoted exclusively to the development and support of UAS: the Unmanned Systems Research and Development Laboratory and the UAS Test Directorate.

Because of these unique capabilities, NAS Patuxent River has an extensive history of supporting UAS, including such platforms as the MQ-8B Fire Scout, the RQ-121A Blackjack, the BAMS-D Global Hawk, and the MQ-4C Triton.

Close Proximity to Washington D.C.

St. Mary's County is less than a 2-hour drive from several major metropolitan areas, including Washington, D.C., Baltimore, MD, and Richmond, VA. Maryland itself is within an overnight drive of a third of the U.S. population.

The proximity to Washington, D.C. grants UAS companies in St. Mary's County access to several federal agencies as well as numerous cultural and social amenities.

St. Mary's County is located outside of the restricted airspace surrounding Washington, D.C. UAS companies located in St. Mary's County can easily test their products and take a day trip to Washington, D.C. agencies and amenities.

A Climate Perfectly Suited for UAS on Land, Air, or Sea

St. Mary's County provides an ideal location for the development and testing of all arenas of UAS. With over 500 miles of shoreline, St. Mary's is an excellent location for the testing of submersible UAS.

The County provides a temperate, Mid-Atlantic climate, ideal for testing year round.

The area is electromagnetically quiet, allowing for broad frequency spectrum use and testing.

Unparalleled UAS Knowledge

St. Mary's County offers UAS companies access to one of the largest concentrations of technology and engineering workers in the Country and the education system is designed to develop the workforce of the future in the UAS industry and other technology industries.

UAS Workforce is Here and Growing

The County's highly trained workforce is on the cutting edge of UAS development. Over 20 UAS companies call St. Mary's County home. Additionally, 22,000 people work at NAS Patuxent River, many in technology fields doing research, development, testing, and evaluation.

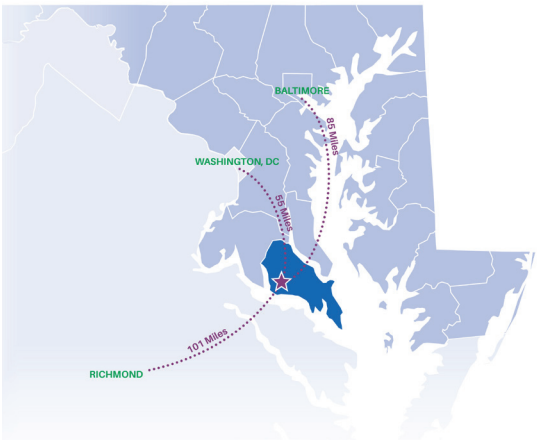
A Top Tech County. The rankings:

- **1st** for the number of tech workers in the Country (24/7 Wall Street)
- **More** aerospace engineers per capita than anywhere else in the country (Bureau of Labor Statistics)
- **4th** best place in the country for tech jobs (Nerdwallet)
- **3.5%** above the national average for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) employment (Forbes)

Well-Supported UAS Workforce Pipeline

- Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Associate degrees are offered at the College of Southern Maryland.
- Bachelor's and Graduate Degrees are offered at the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland (USMSM), St. Mary's College of Maryland, and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.
- St. Mary's County Public Schools offers the STEM Academy throughout a student's K-12 education. Public schools also offer several STEM extracurricular and summer camps, including Robotics Club and Aerospace Camp.
- Nonprofits such as The Patuxent Partnership and the Academy of Model Aeronautics Patuxent Aeromodelers Chapter offer opportunities for students to learn about UAS both inside and outside of the classroom.
- The annual Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) International Student Competition takes place in St. Mary's County, attracting over 35 teams from around the world to come to show off their UAS design in action.

st mary's county
MARYLAND



Department of Economic Development
St. Mary's County, Maryland
(301) 475-4200, ext. *1400
www.yesstmarysmd.com