

South Korea - Oregon Aviation Delegation

Executive Summary

July 26–30, 2026

Purpose of Visit

The South Korean aviation delegation will visit Oregon to explore opportunities for investment, collaboration, and U.S. market entry within the aviation, uncrewed systems, and advanced air mobility (AAM) sectors. The visit aims to strengthen bilateral relationships, assess Oregon's aviation infrastructure and innovation ecosystem, and establish pathways for long-term commercial, research, and governmental partnerships.

Why Oregon

Oregon offers a uniquely diverse statewide airport system, a supportive regulatory environment, strong public-sector commitment, and established industry clusters in UAS, AAM, imaging, and advanced manufacturing. Rural, coastal, and urban airfields provide unmatched opportunities for testing, development, and operationalization. Oregon seeks to leverage this visit to attract Korean companies to establish U.S. operations, create jobs, and expand global visibility of Oregon's aviation capabilities.

Delegation Overview

Participants: ~25 delegates representing government, industry, and R&D institutions. Including the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport (MOLIT), Korea Institute of Aviation Safety Technology (KIAST) and 7 aviation companies (UAS, AAM, manufacturing, integration, services)

Sectors of Interest:

UAS, AAM, aerospace manufacturing, R&D, workforce training, aviation services, and general aviation operations.

Cities/Regions Visited: Portland, Scappoose, Pendleton, Hermiston, Hood River, Tillamook.

Oregon Hosts & Collaborators

- **Business Oregon** – Investment, industry engagement, hosting events.
- **Oregon Department of Aviation (ODAV)** – Systemwide airport coordination, presentations, aviation assets.

Supporting organizations and individuals include, but not limited to, Oregon Tech & the Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center (OMIC), Oregon UAS Accelerator, Pendleton UAS Test Range, Greater Portland Inc., Aerostar International, Betsy Johnson, Port of Tillamook Bay, Oregon Military Department, AUVSI Cascades, Overwatch Imaging, Gorge Tech Alliance, Mid-Columbia Economic Development District, and others.

Planned Activities

The itinerary includes technical briefings, B2B sessions, airport and test range tours, manufacturing demonstrations, networking receptions, and regional site visits. Highlights include:

- Portland briefing & introductory seminar
- OMIC & Scappoose industry sessions
- Pendleton UAS Test Range & Accelerator engagements
- Hermiston Rees Training Center
- Hood River technology cluster + Overwatch Imaging reception
- Tillamook UAS Range & Aerostar tour, coastal site visit

Oregon Objectives & Opportunities

Oregon intends to position itself as the preferred U.S. launch point for Korean aviation companies by demonstrating:

- Statewide testing and manufacturing readiness
- Strong cross-agency alignment
- Active industry ecosystem with proven capabilities
- Clear partnerships in R&D, workforce training, and commercialization

Potential collaboration avenues:

- U.S.-based manufacturing, assembly, integration facilities
- Technology development and testing partnerships
- Joint use of UAS ranges and regulatory coordination
- Workforce training and university-linked innovation programs