Alabama & Huntsville’s Blue Origin Package: >$50M Performance Incentives for BE-4 Engine Manufacturing

Pillar: Competitor States | **Basis:** Huntsville / AL Commerce 2017–2020 Record | **Primary Source:** AL Dept. of Commerce / City of Huntsville | **As Of:** 2017–2020 Execution (verified Nov 2026)

Between 2017 and 2020, Alabama, the City of Huntsville, and Madison County assembled a performance-based incentive package valued at over $50 million—contingent on ULA's BE-4 contract, $200M in capital investment, and 300–342 jobs—to anchor Blue Origin's BE-4 engine factory in Huntsville while Kent remained corporate HQ.

Documented Policy & Site-Selection Record

• Project & Location: Announced in June 2017 and opened in early 2020, Blue Origin invested ~$200M in a Huntsville Cummings Research Park factory to build BE-4 engines for New Glenn and ULA's Vulcan Centaur.

• Incentive Structure: The Alabama Dept. of Commerce, City of Huntsville, and Madison County approved a >$50M performance-based package of tax abatements, incentives, and infrastructure reimbursements.

• Contract & Performance Contingencies: Full execution was conditioned on ULA selecting the BE-4 engine (completed Sept 2018) and meeting 300–342 job-creation and capex milestones.

• Ecosystem & Testing Pull: Huntsville paired incentives with NASA Marshall Space Flight Center's Test Stand 4670 refurbishment and proximity to ULA's Decatur rocket plant—while Blue Origin kept its headquarters in Kent, WA.

Huntsville BE-4 Engine Factory Deal Terms (2017–2020)

Element	Documented Figure / Condition	Source
State & Local Package	>$50M in tax abatements, incentives & reimbursements	Huntsville / Madison County (July 2017)
Capital Investment	$200M factory in Cummings Research Park	Alabama Dept. of Commerce
Jobs & Wages	300–342 high-tech jobs (~$75,000 avg wage cited)	Made in Alabama / GeekWire
Execution Gate	Contingent on ULA BE-4 selection (Sept 2018)	Huntsville City Council Record

Founder, Staffer & Site-Selector Takeaways

• Founder Takeaway: Alabama's model pairs >$50M performance abatements with existing federal NASA test-stand infrastructure and prime customer proximity.

• Counter-Record Check: Blue Origin's Huntsville plant is a documented multi-state expansion for propulsion manufacturing—not an HQ exit from Kent, Washington.

Cross-Cluster Links & Primary Sources

• **WA Space Cluster Hub (#1382):** https://bcesg.org/washington-space-cluster-census/

• **Blue Origin WA Profile:** https://bcesg.org/blue-origin-washington-space-cluster-profile/

• **Kent WA Space Cluster Profile:** https://bcesg.org/kent-wa-space-cluster-profile/

• **WA Space Launch Segment Overview:** https://bcesg.org/wa-space-launch-segment-overview/

• **Alabama Department of Commerce (Made in Alabama):** https://www.madeinalabama.com/

• **City of Huntsville Economic Development:** https://www.huntsvilleal.gov/

• **GeekWire Aerospace Coverage:** https://www.geekwire.com/

Provenance Note: Sourced from City of Huntsville, Madison County, and Alabama Dept. of Commerce (Made in Alabama) records (2017–2020).