The Documented Split Pattern: Zero HQ Exodus While Launch Operations Go to Florida

Pillar: Company Decisions | **Basis:** Multi-Company Footprint Audit | **Primary Source:** Company Filings & Facility Records | **As Of:** Verified Nov 16, 2026

The sourced record shows zero documented headquarters exodus from Washington; instead, launch operators keep headquarters, vehicle engineering, and satellite R&D in Washington while placing orbital launch complexes in Florida (and engine plants in Alabama) because Washington has no orbital launch range.

Documented Policy & Site-Selection Record

• Zero Documented HQ Exodus: Across the 67-company census and 2025–2026 filings, no major Washington-headquartered space company has moved its corporate headquarters out of Washington.

• Blue Origin Pattern: Corporate HQ and major R&D/manufacturing remain in Kent, WA (#1412), while New Glenn orbital launch operations sit at Cape Canaveral, FL and BE-4 engine production sits in Huntsville, AL.

• Stoke Space Pattern: Corporate HQ, 168,000 sq ft rocket factory (Kent), and static test site (Moses Lake) remain in Washington (#1415), while orbital launch operations are sited at Cape Canaveral LC-14.

• Relativity Space Pattern: Long Beach, CA HQ + Kent, WA propulsion/engineering hub (#1466) + Florida Space Coast Terran R production/launch under Space Florida's SIP.

Multi-State Operating Split of Washington-Linked Launch Firms

Company	Washington Footprint	Out-of-State Launch / Mfg	HQ Exodus?
Blue Origin	Kent HQ & manufacturing; Renton	Cape Canaveral FL (launch); Huntsville AL (BE-4)	No
Stoke Space	Kent HQ & 168k sq ft factory; Moses Lake test	Cape Canaveral LC-14, FL (launch)	No
Relativity Space	Kent propulsion & engineering hub	Long Beach CA (HQ); Cape Canaveral FL (SIP)	No (CA HQ)
SpaceX / Amazon Leo	Redmond / Kirkland constellation R&D & mfg	FL / CA / TX launch pads	No

Founder, Staffer & Site-Selector Takeaways

• Staffer Takeaway: Florida launch-pad announcements by Washington firms reflect orbital-range physics, not an HQ departure—though future factory expansions remain contestable.

• Founder Takeaway: Multi-state split operations (WA engineering/satellites + FL launch) are the established norm for Pacific Northwest space companies.

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/

• **Stoke Space WA Profile:** https://bcesg.org/stoke-space-washington-space-cluster-profile/

• **Relativity Space Kent WA Profile:** https://bcesg.org/relativity-space-kent-washington-space-cluster-profile/

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

• **Stoke Space Official Site:** https://www.stokespace.com/

• **Space Florida (Spaceport Improvement Program):** https://www.spaceflorida.gov/

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

Provenance Note: Cross-company facility audit grounded in Step 0 Census (#1382) and public company facility records.