K2 Space in Bellevue: Why a California Satellite Builder Opened a Puget Sound Engineering Hub (July 2026)

Pillar: Company Decisions | **Basis:** July 2026 Expansion Announcement | **Primary Source:** K2 Space / GeekWire | **As Of:** July 2026 Hub Launch (verified Nov 2026)

In July 2026, California-based mega-class satellite builder K2 Space opened a dedicated satellite engineering hub in Bellevue/Greater Seattle to recruit flight-software, FPGA, and RF/mmWave engineers—keeping high-volume manufacturing in Torrance, CA while tapping Puget Sound's satellite talent density.

Documented Policy & Site-Selection Record

• Expansion Date & Location: In July 2026, K2 Space (co-founded by Karan and Neel Kunjur) established a Seattle-area satellite engineering office in Bellevue, WA.

• Split Operating Model: K2 Space kept its primary high-volume manufacturing plant in Torrance, California, while placing a satellite engineering hub in Puget Sound specifically to access regional aerospace and satellite talent.

• Targeted Talent Disciplines: Recruiting in Greater Seattle focuses on senior FPGA prototyping, flight software, autonomy, and RF/mmWave post-silicon validation.

• State-Fight Signal: K2 Space's arrival shows out-of-state satellite primes expanding *into* Washington for specialized engineering without waiting for a WA space tax credit.

K2 Space Regional Division of Labor

Function	Location	Rationale in Sourced Record
High-Volume Satellite Mfg	Torrance, California	Existing California manufacturing headquarters
Satellite Engineering Hub	Bellevue / Greater Seattle, WA	Opened July 2026 for flight SW, FPGA, RF talent density
Product Line	Gravitas mega-class satellites	Commercial and national-security missions

Founder, Staffer & Site-Selector Takeaways

• Founder Takeaway: Even when manufacturing stays in California, Puget Sound's >68% active-satellite ecosystem (preliminary) makes Bellevue/Redmond a magnet for flight-software and RF teams.

• Staffer Takeaway: Engineering-office inflows are real, though they carry lower capex footprints than 200K+ sq ft factories.

Cross-Cluster Links & Primary Sources

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

• **K2 Space WA Profile:** https://bcesg.org/k2-space-washington-space-cluster-profile/

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

• **SpaceX (Redmond) WA Profile:** https://bcesg.org/spacex-redmond-washington-space-cluster-profile/

• **Amazon Leo WA Profile:** https://bcesg.org/amazon-leo-washington-space-cluster-profile/

• **K2 Space Official Site:** https://www.k2space.com/

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

Provenance Note: Sourced from July 2026 expansion coverage and K2 Space job/company disclosures. Non-advocacy record.