

PRESS RELEASE

Ogden City Partners with Aerospace and Defense Leaders to Hosts Second Annual Acceler8 Wasatch Week

05/08/2025



Ogden, UT – Bringing together national defense and aerospace leadership, small business innovators, government officials and academia, Ogden City is proud to host the second annual Acceler8 Wasatch Week. The event is presented in partnership with 47G, the Governor’s Office of Economic Opportunity, Hill Air Force Base, Weber State University, Davis Technical College, Ogden-Weber Technical College, APEX Accelerator, Utah Innovation Center, Northern Utah Economic Alliance, and World Trade Center Utah.

As Utah’s defense sector rapidly expands throughout the region, creating jobs, driving innovation and securing a strong economic future, Acceler8 Wasatch 2025 forges collaboration and fosters discussion on the trends, challenges, and opportunities shaping the industry in northern Utah and beyond. Ogden City Mayor Ben Nadolski and Utah’s Lieutenant Governor Deidre Henderson will kick off the week on **Tuesday, May 13th at 9 am inside Union Station**. Speakers include Colonel Michelle Artolachipe with Ogden Air Logistics Complex and Colonel Meghan M. Szwarc of the 75th Air Base Wing, both in command at Hill AFB. The afternoon will feature a session on emerging technology and research in aerospace and defense hosted by 47G.

“The aerospace and defense industry is an economic engine for Northern Utah,” said Sara Meess, Economic Development Division Director for Ogden City. “Collaboration between Hill AFB, industry, education, and government partners has created a strong ecosystem to accelerate future growth. We are excited to showcase this ecosystem at Acceler8 Wasatch.”

Following the day’s program, attendees will gather in the historic main lobby of Union Station—once a bustling hub of the transcontinental railroad—for a **networking reception from 4:30 to 7 p.m.**

Beginning at **9 am on Wednesday, May 14**, the APEX Accelerator Defense Matchmaking event will connect entrepreneurs and businesses with defense agencies and prime contractors seeking cutting-edge innovation, while also offering guidance on government contracting.

At **1 pm**, 47G will host a session on Growth & Innovation for Small Businesses. This event will explore exciting capital opportunities to help fuel growth, followed by a special session highlighting resources tailored specifically for aerospace and defense companies. With 182 members and an active board that includes well-known investors, 47G is the fastest-growing aerospace and defense organization in the country.

“47G measures success by our members’ success. Acceler8 is a powerful opportunity for small businesses to learn how to secure the capital they need to unlock growth,” said Matthew Croshaw, 47G Chief Commercial Officer. “We’re actively growing a network of investor partners who are committed to fueling Utah’s aerospace and defense ecosystem through significant financial contributions. These investors know the industry and are bullish on its future. We take pride in helping our members—and the broader industry—reach new heights.”

Wednesday concludes with a pitch competition and reception hosted by the Utah Innovation Center from **3–5 pm**, offering entrepreneurs valuable opportunities to engage with investors, industry experts, and fellow innovators.

The final day, **Thursday, May 15th**, Acceler8 Wasatch celebrates our strong aerospace and defense ecosystem by spotlighting career opportunities across the region. Starting at **Union Station at 9am**, attendees will explore pathways to careers in one of the state's fastest-growing sectors, supported by education and industry partners.

"Acceler8 Wasatch showcases the spirit of collaboration and innovation that defines Ogden," said Mayor Nadolski. "Our commitment to building a robust, diverse, and dynamic economy is reflected in the strength of our aerospace and defense sector in not only Ogden City but northern Utah. We're proud to support the businesses and entrepreneurs shaping the future of our community and keeping our country safe."

To register for the event head to [Ogden Utah - Aerospace and Defense Acceler8 Wasatch 2025 Tickets, Tue, May 13, 2025 at 9:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

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