

Sunset review of the Joint Center for Aerospace Technology Innovation (JCATI)

In 2012, the Legislature created JCATI (pronounced “juh-kaa-tea”) to increase collaboration between the aerospace industry and Washington’s public universities. The intent is to promote economic development and job creation through collaboration.

JCATI focuses on three goals:

1. Pursue joint industry-university research in new technologies relevant to aerospace.
2. Enhance education of university engineering students through industry-focused research.
3. Work with aerospace firms and industry associations to identify the industry’s research needs.



JCATI funds research and organizes an annual aerospace symposium

JCATI is housed at the University of Washington and is guided by a Governor-appointed Board of Directors.

JCATI provides competitive grant funding to Washington’s public universities for industry-focused aerospace research. It funds approximately 16 projects annually, and grants have ranged from \$30,000-\$127,000 per project. JCATI also organizes an annual symposium on Washington’s latest aerospace research for industry representatives and academics.

The Legislature appropriated \$3 million to JCATI in the 2017-19 biennium.

JCATI is scheduled to sunset in 2020

JCATI is subject to the Sunset Act (RCW 43.131) and will automatically terminate unless the Legislature reauthorizes it. The Sunset Act directs JLARC to review entities in the year prior to their termination date. JCATI has developed performance measures to facilitate the evaluation.

This study will answer the following questions

1. To what extent has JCATI complied with the legislative intent to pursue industry-university research, enhance the education of students, and work with aerospace firms?
2. To what extent does JCATI provide for efficient and economical management of research grants, with adequate cost and management controls in place?
3. To what extent has JCATI achieved its performance measures?
4. To what extent does JCATI duplicate the activities of another agency or the private sector?

Study timeframe

Preliminary Report: September 2019

Proposed Final Report: December 2019

Proposed Study Questions: Joint Center for Aerospace Technology Innovation

Study team

Team Lead:	Amanda Eadrick	(360) 786-5174	amanda.eadrick@leg.wa.gov
Research Analyst:	Melanie Stidham	(360) 786-5183	melanie.stidham@leg.wa.gov
Project Coordinator:	Valerie Whitener	(360) 786-5191	valerie.whitener@leg.wa.gov
Legislative Auditor:	Keenan Konopaski	(360) 786-5187	keenan.konopaski@leg.wa.gov

JLARC Study Process

