VIRGINIA'S
NEW RIVER VALLEY



A NATURAL FIT FOR UNCREWED SYSTEMS

A Leader in Innovation and Research

WHY CHOOSE THE NRV?

QUALITY OF LIFE

- **Lower Cost of Living** - below average cost of living compared to other larger IT/Tech hubs
- **Unique Blend of Culture** - colleges and universities in the area create a beneficial mix of creativity and urban amenities

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

- **Test Sites -** 2 aerial FAA test sites, drone park, 400 acre space for areal testing, and over 7 miles of closed test bed smart track for autonomous ground vehicles
- **R1 Research University** - eight Virginia Tech research institutes provide opportunities for multidisciplinary research at scale

BUSINESS CLIMATE

- **Diverse and Collaborative -** home to a number of foreign-based corporations and technology companies with access to a network of business, government, and higher education professionals and a local AUVSI chapter (Ridge & Valley)
- **Cost-Effective Operations** - low cost of living allows for reduced overhead and operation costs

$36 MILLION IN RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

- VIRGINIA TECH TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE, 2025

"I love the business culture of the New River Valley. It's one of the greatest things about being located here. The people are real and the community is very supportive. There isn't the competitiveness that is present in other communities and we work together a lot more."

- Nanci Hardwick, CEO, MELD Manufacturing Corporation, MELD PrintWorks, and Aeroprobe Corporation



UNCREWED COMPANIES IN THE NRV *(Not a comprehensive list.)

- Aeroprobe
- BAE Systems
- Inmotion
- Maxtena
- Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership
- Moog
- NanoSonic, Inc.
- Northrop Grumman
- Regal Rexnord
- Techsburg
- Torc
- Virginia Tech Transportation Institute
- VPT, Inc
- Wing
- AugTech Engineering

LOOKING FOR TOP TALENT?

VIRGINIA TECH

- Offers FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot License and the Trusted Operator Program certification from AUVSI
- Globally recognized for comprehensive drone and robotics initiatives spanning academic research, FAA integration, and hands-on facilities

RADFORD UNIVERSITY

- A four-course program in uncrewed aerial systems that leads to FAA certification
- Expertise in drone usage for environmental geology focusing on analyzing geologic hazards, geologic mapping, and helping conduct research

NEW RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Engineering Design Program recognized by the American Drafting and Design Association as one of the top programs in the country
- Programs in UAS that prepare for FAA certification and drone maintenance

"The New River Valley represents a natural fit for the Mid Atlantic Aviation Partnership, an FAA designated test site, because it combines several key factors for next-generation uncrewed systems innovation: diverse terrain and airspace for testing, a world-class research ecosystem anchored by Virginia Tech, a growing advanced manufacturing and workforce pipeline, and a collaborative regional approach to technology commercialization. All of these assets make the New River Valley an ideal hub for advancing MAAP's mission in uncrewed systems development, validation, and deployment."

- Tombo Jones, Director, Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership (MAAP)



Surrounded by the Blue Ridge Mountains and the New River, Virginia's New River Valley was built for award-winning companies. Our eclectic mix of small towns and world-class universities combined with cutting-edge research and exceptional natural beauty make the NRV "A Natural Fit"for leading industries.

ONWARD NEW RIVER VALLEY

Onward New River Valley is a regional economic development organization and the parent organization for the Virginia's New River Valley brand .

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