



OTTAWA: Your Next Move!

In the heart of Canada lies a powerhouse of innovation: Ottawa.

We have North America’s highest concentration of tech talent. Our innovation playground is vast and diverse. Our strengths span software, AI, smart mobility, cybersecurity, digital health and more. Global giants like Nokia and Ericsson share our streets with homegrown heroes Kinaxis, Shopify, Ross Video, Fullscript and Mitel, and startups and scaleups like Assent, Solink and MindBridge.

As the most educated Canadian city, with the nation’s largest tech park, 700+ tech companies, 63,000+ skilled industry workers, $17.9B annual GDP impact (2026), 65 research labs, 130 diplomatic missions, and our unrivalled quality of life, we aren’t simply Canada’s Capital, we are a global tech capital. And our true magic lies in our diverse, collaborative community.

Join us in Ottawa. We’re not just imagining our future — we’re building it.

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WhyOttawa.ca

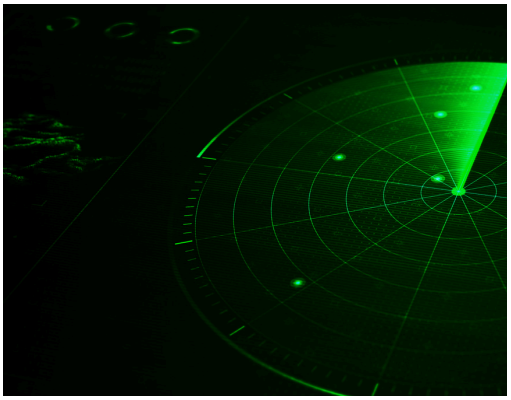
The Right Place for Defence

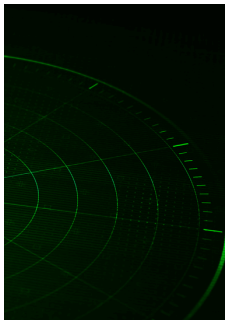
Ottawa is Canada's National Defence Innovation Hub, home to more than 330 defence, aerospace and cyber companies and over 10,000 defence and security professionals, from global primes to competitive small and medium-sized enterprises. As a G7 capital and headquarters of Canada's defence departments, Ottawa pairs access to decision-makers with the infrastructure to move technology from prototype to deployment.

Our capabilities are concentrated where allied demand is growing fastest: artificial intelligence, quantum, autonomous and uncrewed systems, drones and counter-drone, Arctic technologies, secure communications, semiconductors and dual-use innovation. Ottawa companies deliver across air, land, sea and space, with proven strength in C4ISR, MRO and mission systems integration.

Ottawa is where Canada's defence decisions are made. The Department of National Defence (DND), the Defence Investment Agency, Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC), Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) and Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) are headquartered here, alongside 130 diplomatic missions. For companies selling into government, that proximity shortens every step.

That proximity provides direct access to federal defence buyers and allied export programs, alongside Canada’s commitment to 2% of GDP in defence spending this year and 5% by 2035. Companies also gain access to Area X.O’s 1,850-acre R&D complex, secure 16 km test track and more than $51M in technology capabilities.





1st

in North America and Canada, and 28th globally for work life balance (Numbeo, 2026)

65%

of Ottawa's population is enrolled in, or has completed, post-secondary education, making it one of the most educated cities in Canada (Statistics Canada, 2021)

20M

consumers within a 400 km radius

2nd

most affordable among major North American cities (Mercer, 2024)

> "It's never been a more exciting time to be in the defence, space, telecom sector, and here in Ottawa, it really is the epicentre of it. What we're seeing is this mass emergence towards leveraging the commercial space sector to really hit the needs of Canadians and people around the world and hit their basic needs.
>
> **– STEPHEN HAMPTON**
> Senior Director, Global Public Policy, Strategic Accounts and Business Development – Telesat

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12%

concentration of tech talent — the highest among the top 50 North American cities (CBRE, 2025)

1,800+

knowledge-based businesses in the National Capital Region

96,000

tech workers in the National Capital Region's public and private sectors

Ottawa hosts Canada's only cluster of NATO DIANA facilities, including Area X.O and five National Research Council centres such as the Aerospace and Digital Technologies Research Centres. More than 65 research labs offer an accredited path from prototype to certified capability.

Carleton University offers one of Canada's most comprehensive academic aerospace programs, including its Aerospace Simulation Centre. The University of Ottawa, Algonquin College, La Cité, Willis College, Cégep Héritage College and the Université du Québec en Outaouais supply the region's engineering, cyber and skilled trades pipeline.

National industry bodies headquartered here include CADSI, Aerospace Industries Association of Canada (AIAC), Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute (CASI), the Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association, and Nav Canada.

Global primes including Lockheed Martin, General Dynamics, Thales, Leonardo DRS, BAE Systems, Airbus, Boeing and Babcock operate here, alongside Canadian anchors Telesat, MDA and CAE and a deep base of internationally competitive small and medium-sized enterprises.

Sector Ecosystem

Post-Secondary Institutions

uOttawa
Algonquin College
Willis College
Carleton University
La Cité
Cégep Heritage College
UQO Université du Québec en Outaouais

Government Networks

Invest Ottawa | Investir Ottawa
AREAXO
National Defence | Défense nationale
Defence Investment Agency
Public Services and Procurement Canada | Services publics et Approvisionnement Canada
Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada | Innovation, Sciences et Développement économique Canada
FORCES.CA
CENGN
Veterans Affairs Canada | Anciens Combattants Canada

Industry Leaders

Lockheed Martin
General Dynamics Mission Systems
Thales
Airbus
Boeing
BAE Systems
Telesat
MDA Space
CAE

National Networks

CADSI
AIAC
NAV Canada
Canadian Marine Industries Shipbuilding Association

Research Institutes

NRC·CNRC
DRDC | RDDC
Canadian Space Agency | Agence spatiale canadienne
CRC
NSERC | CRSNG

Interested in expanding?
We are here to help.

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