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## \$9B company doubles size of Arlington facility where it trains military pilots

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L3 Technologies strengthened its presence in Dallas-Fort Worth by doubling the size of its flight simulator training facility in Arlington, the company announced Saturday.

L3 Technologies, Inc. (NYSE: LLL) is a defense contractor that generated \$9.6 billion in revenue last year. The company is headquartered in New York City, but two of its three business segments are based in Dallas-Fort Worth.

One of those segments — Electronics Systems — is based in Arlington. Within that segment, the company has a business called Link Training & Simulation. That business builds flight training simulators for mostly military pilots. But the company has seen such a demand for pilot training, it added 40,000 square feet to the facility so it could house both manufacturing and pilot training capabilities.

"We started with manufacturing and said, 'Holy Cow, we need this space for manufacturing, but we have this demand for training,'" said Lenny Genna, president of Link Training & Simulation. "We needed to expand so we had dedicated space for training, but we still needed a place for manufacturing."

The new addition allows space for six additional flight training simulators. These simulators are massive, multi-million dollar structures which prospective pilots train in. The addition also has classrooms where instructors can go over material with future pilots. To take a look inside the facility and see what a simulator looks like, check out the attached slideshow.

As Genna said, the facility in Arlington opened in 2014 and was intended to be primarily a manufacturing facility. A lot of the actual manufacturing of these simulators takes place in Oklahoma, but the final integration takes place in Arlington. Currently almost all of the 950 L3 employees in Arlington are Link employees.

"We have a great relationship with the city of Arlington," Genna said. "We could have moved other places in the past and we purposely did not."

L3's simulators can train pilots learning to fly aircraft, helicopters or unmanned systems. In the future, Genna hopes to have two simulators — there are currently six simulators sitting in the facility — dedicated to training commercial pilots.

L3's other locally headquartered business segment — Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance, or ISR — is run out of Plano. The business unit was formed as a result of merger between two other segments, Aerospace Systems and Sensor Systems.

The need for more military pilots caused another local company, Airbus Helicopters Inc., to add a \$40 million training facility to its headquarters in Grand Prairie. The first phase of that facility is scheduled to be completed in early 2020.



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