



Air-Traffic Control Simulation Facility Unveiled in Orlando

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Adacel Systems Inc. has built a 12,000 square-foot facility in the vicinity of the Orlando International Airport, to be used as a staging and assembly site for all of its air traffic control simulation development and training programs.

The company will move its software development from Dallas, Texas, to Florida. The new location will place Adacel in the heart of simulation-country, said Gary Pearson, director of products.

The Dallas facility is "not well suited for what [Adacel is] doing," said Pearson.

The Texas site is significantly smaller, less than half the size of Adacel's Florida location, he said.

Adacel's primary focus in North America is on air traffic control simulators and air traffic management systems, added Pearson.

"This is an industry that if you sell two to three systems a year that's good," he said. "In the last 18 months, we have sold 78 tower simulator systems".

The Air Force purchased 94 systems, one of the service's largest contracts for simulators, Pearson said. The contract is worth \$70 million to \$80 million..

Building air traffic control simulators requires a lot of room, Pearson said. "Once you assemble these systems, they fill up a lot of space."

Adacel also needs a larger facility to accommodate future product and employee growth, said Pearson.

"We are working on quite a few programs. [Their] success will determine the number of workers," he added.

The new site also will place the company within five minutes of Orlando International Airport and close to the 78-year-old Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Fla., added Pearson.

"[Orlando] is home of simulation in the United States. The area is surrounded by simulation companies and PEO STRI (the Army's Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation)," he said.

"The idea is to be more integrated with other companies."

Adacel has teamed with Computer Sciences Corp. to compete for Army programs, such as the Army's Flight School XXI training simulators.

Adacel is working with NLX (a provider of commercial and military training simulators) on a special operations simulator for tactical air traffic control, said Pearson.

"Our simulator is the core of what [NLX] will be showing at I/ITSEC," he said.

One display is a prototype special tactics simulator. In the future, Pearson said, he expects to see significant advances made in voice recognition technology.

"People are blown away with voice recognition systems. We have plans to take it to a new level," he said. "It can go a lot further than where it is."