

# ARINC HANGAR READ FOR TAKE-OFF

Oklahoma City – Ja'Rena Lunsford  
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Aviations and state leaders celebrated the grand opening of the city's largest commercial aircraft hangar Tuesday.

ARINC's 51,000-square-foot hangar east of Will Rogers World Airport has positioned the Maryland-based company to grow in Oklahoma, officials said. Although it's been less than 24 hours since large shears cut through a ribbon at ARINC's new hangar company officials already are talking about possibly opening a second facility.

"I'll be money that we'll have a second hangar here in four or five years," said John Belcher, ARINC chairman and chief executive officer.

The ARINC Aircraft Modification and Operations Center includes more than an acre of hangar space plus more than 20,000 square feet of office space. Along with enabling ARINC to work on larger plans, the hangar – capable of accommodating four C-130 aircrafts and eight more on the ramp – also will allow the company to bid for larger contracts that may bring more work and more jobs to Oklahoma. ARINC has already hired 10 employees since January. The company has 350 employees in Oklahoma.

ARINC's previous hangar at Sundance Airpark in Oklahoma City was 125 feet by 125 feet, requiring the aviation company to do modifications at the customer's site. Those days are now over.

"We have more than double that here," said Michael Young, vice president of aerospace systems engineering and support.

Young Said ARINC's growth and new hangar would not be possible without its employees and customers.

"They've had the faith and confidence in us to do technological complex jobs for them, and they've continued to give us bigger and better jobs.

ARINC's onsite capabilities include avionics installations, aircraft systems integration and engineering design, and aircraft maintenance. Employees work as engineers and in positions that range from maintenance to technical support.

Lt. Gov. Jari Askins said the new hangar is the epitome of the future of aviation in Oklahoma. "Your industry has continued to be a model as I talk to young students and tell them that if they continue to study hard and focus on math and science, we can offer them good, paying jobs in Oklahoma," Askins said. "Those jobs most often come from aviation."

Belcher said the jobs ARINC brings to the state are not its only impact on Oklahoman's. From airlines communications systems to rail control systems, ARINC – which was founded in 1929 to provide radio communications for the airlines – develops and operates systems for airports, aviation, defense and the government. "I bet everyone in this room has used an ARINC service," Belcher said the crowd inside the hangar.

ARINC has been serving the U.S. Military for 60 years, a long-term relationship that keynote speaker and retired Col. Danny R. McKnight said links ARINC and its new hangar to everyone nationwide.

“The kinds of things that take place in this facility make this country safer,” said McKnight, who was part of the 1993 combat in Somalia, which was the basis for the movie and book “Black Hawk Down.”

Whether it will be four years, five years, or longer before ARINC builds another towering hangar here is yet to be determined but Belcher said the company is glad to be in Oklahoma.

“We’re very proud of being in Oklahoma and we’re proud of our facility,” he said.