

NORTHROP GRUMMAN PLANS TO CONSOLIDATE OPERATIONS

Oklahoma City – Richard Mize
2002

Defense Contractor Northrop Grumman Corporation will consolidate many of its Oklahoma City Operations into a new 49,000-squarefoot office-research building, company officials revealed this week.

The building will be in Liberty Business Park a project of Oklahoma City's Gardner Property Interests and Premier Assets near Tinker Air Force Base. The move which will leave vacant space in three other office complexes, comes in anticipation of growth, said Northrop Grumman spokesman Juli Ballestreros in Herndon, Va.

Northrop will vacate 12,000 square feet at 1342 S Douglas Blvd. in Midwest City and 9,000 square feet at 2905 Harr Drive in Midwest City, she said. Other space the company currently occupies in Oklahoma City and at Tinker will not immediately be affected by the move she said. Liberty Business Park has room for expansion, she said.

The building, for which ground will be ceremonially broken today at 11:30 a.m., will house several Northrop Grumman sectors already present in Oklahoma City: information technology, space technology, mission systems and integrated systems. Northrop Grumman, a \$25 billion defense company headquartered in Los Angeles, provides products and services in defense electronics, information technology, aircraft, shipbuilding, space technology and systems integration. Its customers here include Tinker Air Force Base, the Federal Aviation Administration Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center and the State of Oklahoma.

Oklahoma has 428 of the company's 120,000 employees, according to the company's web site: two in electronic systems, 187 in integrated systems at Tinker Air Force Base; 145 in information technology at Tinker and locations in Oklahoma City and Midwest City; 51 in missions systems in Midwest City, Bartlesville, and Tulsa; and 43 in space technology in Midwest City.

Northrop Grumman is the first tenant in Liberty Business Park under development across from Tinker's south entrance at SE 59th and Air Depot Boulevard. The company will occupy one of two buildings in the \$8 million first phase of the development, said Richard Tanenbaum, chief operating officer of Gardner Property Interests and Premier Assets.

Seen more buildings of about 40,000 square feet each are planned for the development said Tanenbaum who works closely with his father-in-law Justin Gardner, who founded the company's predecessor, G&G construction Co. Inc., in 1947.

Tanenbaum said Gardner designers met with Northrop Grumman representatives for 18 months "to get it exactly hwo they wanted it."

In addition to meeting the defense company's specific needs inside the building which includes 5,000 square feet of specialized laboratory space, Liberty Business Park has other attributes that Tinker and other high-tech companies should find attractive he said.

Liberty Business Park is not in Tinker's flight zone, and its buildings will be protected by fenced security and interior sprinkler systems.

The development has Oklahoma City water and utilities, rail access and plenty of parking, Tanenbaum said. Build-to-suit construction is available for both office space with redundant fiber-optics capability and warehouse space with dock-high bays, which means the warehouse floors are at the same level as the floors of truck trailers.

"Tinker is here to stay and many companies that support them are requiring these type of high-tech customized new facilities," Tanenbaum said.