

A Case Study

New ventures with a proven partner

About:

Bell Helicopter Textron Industries (BHTI) is one of the leading suppliers of helicopters and related spare parts and services in the world. Bell is the pioneer of the revolutionary tiltrotor aircraft and has delivered more than 35,000 aircraft to customers around the world. Greater than 29% of helicopters in operation today carry the Bell brand, including both military and commercial operations.



Challenges:

BHTI has embarked on an industry changing aircraft that is not only the largest commercial helicopter that Bell has ever produced, but ultimately garnered its own classification as the first Super-Medium class helicopter. One of the challenges of developing and building a helicopter with a 54' rotor blade diameter is that it takes a lot of space. BHTI did not have the kind of assembly space it would require to build this new helicopter so various options were considered.

The Amarillo Advantage:

By 2012, the Amarillo EDC had already established itself as a proven partner to BHTI by assisting the company with multiple expansion efforts at their Amarillo campus. The company had also long been impressed with the community's available technical training programs and drive of the local workforce. So when the time came for BHTI to identify a location to manufacture and assemble their first commercial vehicle, they turned to the Amarillo EDC to identify facility solutions for the new project.

The Amarillo EDC secured property for the project and was able to leverage the company's private investment to obtain grants and financing options from local jurisdictions. Additionally, BHTI was able to capitalize on freeport tax exemptions and alleviate costs on their qualified property and inventory.

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*George Herring,
Manager, Facilities &
Site Support*

The Success Story:

"With the help of the Amarillo EDC, a successful business case was developed for constructing a new manufacturing in Amarillo", said George Herring, Manager of Facilities and Site Support at BHTI's Amarillo campus. The \$29M project provided 250,000 sq ft of assembly and fabrication space. With the assembly of the aircraft based in Amarillo, it followed that the flight operations would also be conducted here in existing available flight hangar space. As an added benefit to the community, a significant amount of the development work has also been moved to Amarillo. All of these activities have created work for more than 100 employees and allowed BHTI's 525 Relentless to be a game changer in vertical lift technology.

Is your company looking for a long term partner to help take your company to new heights? Visit us at Amarilloedc.com to find out how we can find your route to success.