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A-T Solutions nearly quadruples its digs

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A-T Solutions opened just eight years ago. But already it has outgrown its office space.

Yesterday the company officially opened its new operations center at the Lee Hill II Building on Spotsylvania Avenue, formerly known as the Capital One building.

The new space, which the company moved into in October, is nearly four times the size of its old offices.

A-T Solutions describes itself as an anti- and counter-terrorism company. Staffed at least partly with former members of the military, it offers training for police, first responders and military bomb specialists on how to identify and defuse bombs. The training uses bomb replicas built by company staff, some of whom are former bomb disposal technicians.

The company also produces forensic kits that bomb squads can use to glean information on how and where a bomb was made.

According to Paul McQuillan, executive vice-president for business development, A-T Solutions trained more than 15,000 soldiers in the past year, most of them headed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

A-T Solutions also has mobile training squads that go into the field to train soldiers, and has people who inform them of new bomb techniques and technologies. The company can build a replica of a new kind of bomb within 96 hours of receiving the information.

That kind of global reach and relevancy is, McQuillan said, "probably one of our greatest strengths."

The need for such training helps explain the company's rapid growth. Founded in 2002, A-T Solutions



Paul McQuillan, A-T Solutions' executive vice president of business development, talks about the company's new 40,000-square-foot office in Spotsylvania County. Its former location had 11,000 square feet.



A-T Solutions moved into the fourth floor of the Lee Hill II Building on Spotsylvania Avenue in October. The building once housed a call center for Capital One.

now has more than 500 employees. McQuillan said the company has more than doubled in size since 2008.

So it needed more space. McQuillan said the company's old office was about 11,000 square feet. There was no room for conference rooms or for demonstration rooms in which the company could show prospective clients its technology. It's a business that's better demonstrated than described, McQuillan said.

The new space is 40,000 square feet, and takes up an entire floor in the Lee Hill II Building.

A-T Solutions is a Virginia-based company with headquarters in Tysons Corner.

To encourage the company to expand within Virginia, local and state economic development agencies have worked to provide A-T Solutions about \$100,000 in work-force training grants, said Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling.

Bolling, who attended the ribbon-cutting yesterday, has made economic development and job creation a main focus of his office.

He said A-T Solutions was a good project for those efforts.

"It's important to help existing businesses grow and expand," Bolling said.

He said A-T Solutions is expecting to create at least a hundred new jobs over the next couple of years.

In the past 11 months, Bolling said, the state has closed 217 economic development deals around the state, creating 55,000 net new jobs.

"We're very, very pleased with the results we've had," he said.

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