Ericsson opens state-of-the-art smart factory in Lewisville

Sponsored by the City of Lewisville

BACK TO HUB

The country's first 5G smart factory, built by Ericsson, opened earlier this year in the City of Lewisville.

The fully automated and connected 300,000-square-foot, $100 million smart factory was built to produce 5G and advanced antenna systems for the company, which is one of the world's leaders in information and communication technology. This sophisticated technology boosts network capacity and coverage to enable rapid 5G deployments.

The factory takes advantage of Ericsson's own industrial 5G solutions to enable automated warehouses, connected logistics and the use of autonomous carts, along with automated assembly, packing and product handling. The use of these technologies will allow the factory to have a more flexible production schedule and more agile operations.

The new smart factory was also designed to be 28% more energy efficient than similar buildings through innovative technologies that reduce energy consumption and costs. This includes the use of frictionless magnetic levitation chillers and thermal energy storage banks. With this technology, ice is made and stored throughout the night, then melted during the day to provide the building's cooling. Other green initiatives include the installation of solar panels that generate onsite renewable energy and a 26,000-gallon tank to collect and reuse rainwater. With these combined factors, Ericsson is

pursuing LEED Gold and LEED Zero Carbon certifications for the factory.

Why Lewisville?

The combination of Lewisville's location, availability of a talented workforce and having the lowest combined tax rate in the region made it an ideal choice for Ericsson. Lewisville sits just 30 minutes northwest of Dallas, 40 minutes northeast of Fort Worth and five miles from Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW). With the factory situated in the fourth largest metropolitan area in the country, Ericsson can pull its talent from the Dallas/Fort Worth workforce of more than 3.6 million people, including the more than 65,000 people in Lewisville's workforce.

The median age of Lewisville's more than 115,000 residents is 32.5, making them prime candidates for workforce selection by Ericsson. Additionally, the city ranks first in the state for having the highest percentage of residents working, at 77.8%. Lewisville actively targets advanced manufacturing companies like Ericsson to establish a physical presence.

With the opening of the new smart factory, Lewisville has become the main distribution center for Ericsson's North American market.

Ericsson currently employs about 100 people at the factory, but will hire upwards of 400 people when it is operating at full capacity in three to four years. The factory produced its first 5G base station in March. The base station improves coverage in cities where it can be difficult to install equipment on roofs.

Ericsson's Lewisville smart factory is part of the company's broader mission to drive quick deployment and use of 5G in the country by creating an ecosystem that fosters innovation and leadership in technology. The company plans to accomplish this through the combined use of 5G, the internet of things (IoT), artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning.

Other components in the company's network are the Center of Excellence training facility to train tower climbers, also located in Lewisville; Ericsson's North American headquarters in Plano; a 5G product design center and research and development center, both in Austin; along with a global artificial intelligence accelerator innovation hub and co-creation center, both in Santa Clara, California. Through these investments in the U.S., Ericsson plans to decrease the time to market for its new products and accelerate its innovations.

Ericsson's decision to place its smart factory in Lewisville has enabled the city to become a leader in showing how 5G, IoT and AI can transform industries.

*Learn more about major **business developments in Lewisville**.*