

BAE Dedicates New Facilities at Mojave Spaceport

Antelope Valley and East Kern are a “frontier full of dreams and dreamers,” BAE Systems Flight Systems vice-president and general manager, Paul Nafziger told employees and guests attending the dedication of the company’s new facilities at Mojave Spaceport recently.

Nafziger was speaking at the formal dedication of the company’s 106,000 square foot facility at Mojave spaceport in a building large enough to hold a Boeing 747. The company’s Mojave operations are now concentrated in five buildings instead of the 14 BAE previously occupied. The new facilities offer “increased business capabilities,” said Galen Ho, who heads BAE Information and Electronic Systems Integration. “This facility includes a hangar with the capability to support wide-body aircraft, the elbow room to perform numerous programs such as the QF-4 program, the Catbird program and others in surroundings that truly reflect the quality and professionalism that our defense and commercial customers have come to expect from us.”

The centerpiece of the new facility is the spaceport’s largest building and one of East Kern’s largest structures, and includes over 76,000 square feet of hangar space, 30,000 square feet for offices and shops, and a 16,000 square foot paint booth that can hold large aircraft. Nafziger said that with this investment in the Mojave community, BAE Systems exhibits its commitment to maintain a significant presence in the area. “We want to grow — our people want to grow,” said Nafziger.

“BAE is a valuable member of the Mojave community and we welcome this expansion,” said **Bill Deaver**, who represented the Mojave Chamber of Commerce and Town Council at the dedication. East Kern Airport District board members **Jim Balentine**, **Cathy Hansen**, and **JoAnn Painter** agreed, expressing their appreciation to Nafziger, **Bob Swanson**, president of BAE Integrated Defense Solutions, and Ho.

Swanson, who lived in California City in the 1970s, said the dedication represents “the beginning of a new future for the Flight Systems organization.” BAE plans to expand its involvement in unmanned aerial vehicles as well as growing its capabilities in integrated systems. Along those lines, the company was awarded a \$21 million Air Force contract in January to develop 17 more QF-4 aerial targets, a contract with four additional options. “This new complex not only



DEDICATION — Officials of BAE Flight Systems dedicated the company’s new facilities at Mojave spaceport with a ribbon-cutting Monday. Galen Ho, President, BAE Information and Electronic wields the sizable scissors aided by Paul Nafziger, at left, who heads Mojave operations, and Bob Swanson, right, president of BAE Integrated Defense Solutions.

improves the quality of our work environment, it also provides us with capabilities to grow and to maximize our potential,” Swanson said, adding that it is a first step towards expanding BAE’s strategic capabilities.

The consolidation is already helping employees work better together, too. Ho said he also wanted to dedicate the new facility on behalf of BAE employees and that one of BAE’s key objectives is to retain and continue its role as employer of choice. “I personally got involved in the proposal for this

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