

Saalex Corp., with office in Rockledge, celebrates its 20th anniversary; is now an employee-owned company

By Neal Stein
nealstein@techprsolutions.com
Technology PR Solutions

ROCKLEDGE — Saalex Corp., an engineering and information technology services company, is celebrating 20 years in business. Travis Mack, president and CEO, founded Saalex Solutions in 1999.

Over the past three years, Saalex Corp. has achieved a stunning revenue growth rate of 85 percent, and increased the number of its employees by more than 100 percent, to nearly 650 people.

"This is a year of celebration and appreciation for our valuable employees and customers," said Mack. "I am filled with much pride to have spent the past 20 years with such an invaluable workforce. Saalex employees are the heartbeat of our business. I strongly believe that every single person in this organization is important to its success. Saalex has much to conquer in the years ahead. However, it is important we look back and celebrate our successes."

Mack founded Saalex Corp. in Oxnard, Calif. He chose the company moniker by combining the first names of his two children, Sage and Alexcia. Mack, a U.S. Navy veteran, launched Saalex as an information technology consulting firm focused on software support for commercial businesses, and later focused on pursuing defense contracts.

In 2001, a single assignment with Northrop Grumman catapulted Saalex to a company of 55 employees within four years. Saalex was awarded its first significant Department of Defense contract to support Air Force electronic warfare program systems in 2004. Saalex established itself as an engineering and technical assistance company specializing in systems engineering, range operations and management, test and evaluation, and logistics for aerospace and combat weapons systems.

Over the next several years, Saalex developed an excellent reputation, primarily with U.S. Navy customers, and the contract awards grew larger and longer. In 2005, Saalex won a coveted Award for Excellence from the U.S. Small Business Administration, a feat that the company would repeat multiple times.

In late 2010, Saalex bid on the Land and Sea Range Support Services contract, which was awarded in 2011. Due in part to that win, Saalex's annual revenues multiplied from \$5 million in 2010 to \$30 million in 2012.

As Saalex continued to grow, so did its list of certifications and accolades. In 2014, "Inc. 500/5000" recognized Saalex as one of the fastest-growing private companies. It was No. 816 on the list. In 2015, not only did Saalex cross an ocean to win the Pacific Missile Range Facility contract in Kekaha, Hawaii, but it also traversed the country to open a new regional office in Rockledge.

By the end of 2016, Saalex increased its presence on the Space Coast with a subcontractor award to support NASA's Launch Services Program over a nine-and-a-half-year period. In 2017, Saalex won NSWC Corona Division contract awards three times, followed by the Joint Range Technical Services contract as a major subcontractor to the U.S. Air Force.

The year 2018 was a huge year for Saalex in terms of winning new contracts with NAVSEA SeaPort-NxG, the U.S. Navy SeaPort Ordnance Logistics Support Services at Seal Beach, Calif., the U.S. Air Force Test Center Joint Technical Services II contract at China Lake and Point Mugu, and the Early Learning Coalition of Alachua County.

After celebrating 20 years in business in 2019, the company won further recognition by making the "Fortune Inc. 5000" list of the fastest-growing private companies in America for the second time. Saalex was also presented with the Central Coast Best Places to Work award.

The good news continued for all Saalex staff, with Saalex Corp. becoming an employee-owned business through an Employee Stock Ownership Plan, as of July 2019.

Saalex's management philosophy is that behind every successful person or company is a team. The success and growth of Saalex was created by building a cohesive, goal-oriented team with sound business practices.

Over the last 20 years, Saalex has grown from a small to large business designation with nearly 650 employees by continuing to focus on strategic initiatives that serve commercial and defense industries while developing new government and municipal markets. Learn more at www.Saalex.com.



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EFSC Foundation announces gift from the Community Foundation for Brevard

The Eastern Florida State College Foundation has received a \$4,500 grant from an anonymous donor through the Community Foundation for Brevard.

The funds will provide scholarships for EFSC students who are military veterans and assist with the development of a new Mechatronics Lab on the Cocoa campus.

Mechatronics is a field that marries mechanical, electrical and computing systems to support advanced manufacturing. It is critical to the manufacture, maintenance and repair of high-tech products.

The lab will play an important role in the college's Aerospace Technology and Engineering Technology programs that are training students for careers at NASA's Kennedy Space Center and in other high-tech fields.

"EFSC is a multifaceted jewel of our community," said Theresa Grimison, Community Foundation of Brevard president and CEO. "It is our honor to provide this support for two important programs through an anonymous fund holder of the Community Foundation for Brevard."

Jennie Kriete, director of the EFSC Foundation, thanked the Foundation for its "continued support of the college and its students."