

CENTRAL FLORIDA BUSINESS

Technology

Air Force receives Lockheed simulators

BY MARCO SANTANA
Staff Writer

The U.S. Air Force will train future pilots on linked virtual simulators built in Orlando.

Lockheed Martin announced last week the delivery of four networked F-35 simulators that will immerse multiple trainees into a shared virtual world.

The Air Force has been looking to deploy Lockheed Martin's stealth F-35 Lightning II aircraft and this simulator will help accomplish that goal.

The four simulators link to allow multiple pilots to participate in tactical training exercises together.

"All the pieces of the technology puzzle are coming together to support the Air Force's F-35 mission readiness," said Mary Ann Horter, vice president of F-35 Sustainment Support at Lockheed.

Lockheed, headquartered in Bethesda, Md., employs more than 7,000 people in Central Florida.

New digital art studio launches

A new art house created by University of Central Florida students hopes to become a viable choice for

companies seeking video-game art.

The Art Hive studio launched about two months ago as a partnership between two students at Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy, the school's video game development program.

Branden Smith, one of the company's co-founders, said he hopes to corral Central Florida's robust video game development community for work.

The city's independent community hosts a monthly gathering for developers.

"Orlando is a burgeoning gaming area with a bunch of indie game companies," he said. "There is all sorts of potential here."

Smith said the studio has created a demo animation for Dynamic Attractions, a theme-park ride designer with an Orlando office.

An early-stage startup, Art Hive employees will work out of their homes or in small groups, taking advantage of one of the benefits of being a digital-based company. However, Smith said the company has applied for acceptance into FIEA Ventures, the year-old digital media incubator in downtown Orlando.

The incubator exchanges space for a 5 percent equity stake in the

startups accepted into the program, FIEA director Ben Noel said.

Financial tech firm nears \$100M

An Orlando financial tech company is approaching a milestone.

Officials with Fattmerchant, a subscription-based merchant services provider that offers unlimited credit card processing for a flat fee, say the company's networks have processed \$100 million in transactions this year. The number represents more than 20 times the number of transactions it processed during 2014, they said.

In 2014, Fattmerchant customers processed \$5 million in transactions.

The company employs 12 full-time employees in downtown Orlando.

"It just goes to show we are doing something right," said Suneera Madhani, the company's CEO. "We look forward to reflecting back next year."

The company also plans to grow its virtual terminal product next year, company officials said.

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Real estate

Restaurant, fitness lease off Michigan

BY MARY SHANKLIN
Staff Writer

At the Market at Southside shopping center, off Michigan Street south of downtown Orlando, Youfit Health Clubs and Zoës Kitchen's have leased space at Pineloch Management's Publix-anchored center.

Jorge Rodriguez, of Colliers International Central Florida, represented the landlord for Youfit's long-term lease of junior anchor space. Christy Stross, of West Central Real Estate Services, represented the tenant.

Rodriguez also represented the landlord for Zoës Kitchen's ground lease. Brent Andrews, of Atlantic Retail Properties, represented the tenant. The Mediterranean-style casual eatery is slated to open in August.

Leases

AssistRx, a health care software company, expanded with a lease of 20,000 square feet of office space at Millennia Lakes, near the Mall at Millennia. JLL Vice Presidents Joe Hills and Nick Poole represented the tenant and Jeff Swee-

ney and Cindy Schooler, both of Cushman & Wakefield, represented the landlord. The tech company will occupy the fourth and fifth floors of the office building at 5323 Millennia Lakes Blvd.

Sale

NAI Realvest completed the \$425,000 sale of a portfolio-owned 187-acre tract at 32520 State Road 44 in Eustis. NAI Investment Associate Chris Butera represented the seller, Turnstone Group LLC of Atlanta. Joe Townsend of Global Real Estate represented the buyer, Groveland-based SR44 USA LLC, which includes Townsend, of Kissimmee; Silva Dos Santos, of Groveland; and Guy Norman Bouchard, of Clermont. ...

Charles Steele, of Kissimmee-based CL Steele Realty Inc., represented Templeton Investments Ltd. Inc. in its sale of about 2.5 acres on U.S. Highway 192 in Osceola County to David Daniels, who owns Express Car Wash. ...

A Wa Wa convenience store and service station is going in on State Road 46 in Sanford, just east of

Interstate 4. Elevation Development closed on the 2-acre site at 4650 S.R. 46. SVN Florida senior advisor Ali Mushtaq represented the seller, Paramount Investment Group, on the \$2.65 million sale. Elevation also has a contract on a 5.5-acre site at Avalon and Marsh roads in Winter Garden and plans a medical office building.

Residential

Pulte Homes plans to open Ruby Lake, a gated community in the Dr. Phillips area, in the spring. It is expected to have 240 home site with prices from the low \$400s.

Retail

Texas-based Fuddruckers plans to more than double its presence in Florida with regional franchisee Urdaneta, Reyes & Videla. The duo announced it is developing seven restaurants in the Tampa and Orlando areas. Fuddruckers currently has two sites in Orlando and five in South Florida.

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