

# Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW) International

# DFW

DALLAS  
FORT WORTH  
INTERNATIONAL  
AIRPORT



The Dallas Fort Worth International Airport (DFW) is ranked as one of the Top Technology Airports in the United States. One contributing factor is the completion of arguably the most intelligible Public Address and Emergency Voice/Alarm Communications Systems (EVACS) in a domestic U.S. airport. While Public Address and EVACS have been around for many years, the design approach to combine them into one system was revolutionary. Starting in 2005, DFW's renovation in International Terminal D was the beginning of a new standard. This has become the Next Generation Emergency Communication System for Mass Notification in the United States.

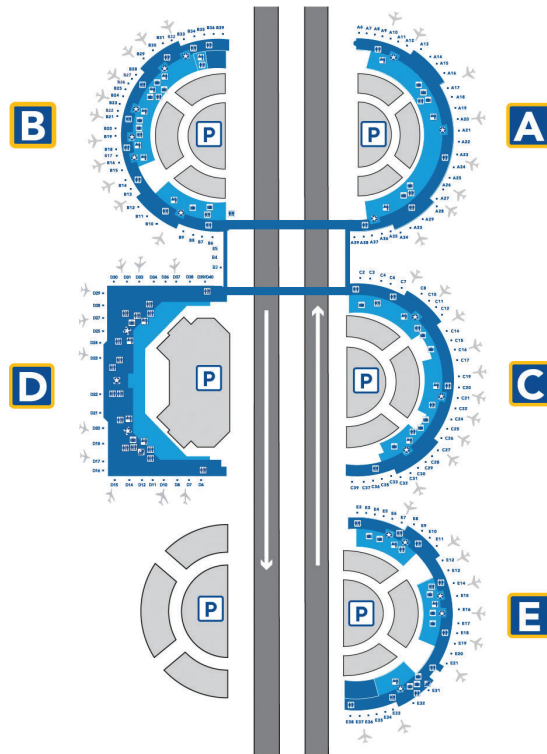


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## Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW) International

As one of the nation's largest and busiest hub airports, up to 60% of all traffic at DFW is connecting passengers. Bad weather in any area of the country affects flights in and out of DFW, flight crews, passenger connections, and more. "Being able to quickly make gate change announcements or page a passenger at the gate, terminal, or entire airport saves time and gets the planes out of the gate." says Rich Ashlin, American Airlines Managing Director of Customer Care at DFW. "Missed flights not only cost money, but it means our passengers may disrupt weddings, funerals, vacation plans, and more."

In 2011, DFW airport started the Terminal Renewal and Improvement Program, which included remodeling existing Terminals A, B, C, and E to match the new Terminal D. Covering more than 4 million square feet, the system was engineered by design firm, Ross & Baruzzini, and operates on an extensive digital Public Address System created by AtlasIED.



Chapter 24 of NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code, states that if the Public Address System and EVACS are merged, it must meet the code requirements, which includes intelligibility. This brings the performance of the EVACS and the intelligibility of the Public Address System together. There are many benefits to combining the systems such as the increase in reliability and lower maintenance costs. The DFW Fire Training Research Center has conducted airport fire training for 27 countries, 29 states and over 15,000 firefighters. They take pride in raising the bar for airport fire safety and readiness.

When these systems are combined using the AtlasIED solution, there are many new solutions and cost-saving benefits. Some benefits that a combined Public Address and EVACS provide are:

**Monitoring** - The Emergency Communication/Public Address System (EC/PAS) is always in use, which provides for an additional level of monitoring. The EVACS is rarely actually activated. If there is a failure, the EVACS sends a signal to the Fire Alarm System, which is monitored by the dispatch center personnel and then reported to the IT staff. There is a requirement that the branch speaker circuits must be monitored at all times. AtlasIED was able to develop a method to monitor branch circuits that provides a means to convert existing systems.



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**Architectural** - A combined speaker system is aesthetically better, because there is no longer a need for two separate systems.

**Networkability** - The combined system operates on a converged network switching system. This allows network engineers to monitor the entire system and examine usage, be quickly alerted to problems, and glean from an already secure, managed and proven converged network switching system.

**Digital Control** - The AtlasIED digital EC/PAS allows for all the advanced functions, which have commonly operated only on the Public Address System to incorporate emergency communications. In an emergency, the system can override regular announcements and pages to make sure the emergency announcements are made without distraction.

**All Clear** - Any emergency can halt hundreds of airport employees, thousands of travelers, along with planes, and other equipment. The combined AtlasIED digital EC/PAS can quickly restore airport operations to normal activity, providing cost savings to the airport and airline carriers.



This new approach is a departure from the past method of two separate notification systems found in most airports. Having only one system results in less labor and maintenance requirements.

The AtlasIED team has become known for quickly developing software solutions to address new requests, and Ford AV is the largest AV integrator of U.S. airports and was chosen because of their experience, qualifications, licenses, and affordability.

AtlasIED has systems deployed in 230 plus airports with 160 plus in the United States, and Ford AV has installed more domestic airport paging systems than any other AV contractor in the U.S.

To learn more about AtlasIED, please visit our website at [atlasied.com](http://atlasied.com)



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