



FALCON AERIAL ANALYTICS, LLC (MBE)



Collecting Construction Site Data with Drone Technology

Juan Carlos Antolinez dreamed of a more positive work environment during his 16 years as an IT employee. He was a tech guy, taking calls from people with a problem. "I asked myself, why do I have to be in an environment where I am the negative person all the time," he recalls. Antolinez hit the delete button. And one call changed everything. "I was approached by a company that was doing work with drone technology. I helped them organize their business," he said.

In 2018, Antolinez started his own company, Falcon Aerial Analytics. "I always liked technology and I felt this was the perfect time to do it based on my skills and the things that I have done in the past," he said.

The phone calls Antolinez receive today are from construction and utility companies seeking mapping services, inspections on transmission lines, and construction analytics. "We do services mainly to collect data with drones that have artificial intelligence technology," he explains.

The drone technology to collect data on new construction projects and at utility work sites is developing rapidly according to Antolinez. "It's really important to follow all the FAA regulations to fly drones

commercially. We are sharing space with airplanes and we cannot be an obstruction to air traffic."

Antolinez believes the sky is the limit for his business. He's now certified as a Minority Business Enterprise and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise with help from the Business Diversity Development Office at St. Louis Lambert International Airport. "It was a long process," he said. There was a lot of information that needed to be collected. We were guided through the process."

He adds, "Now I believe some of those prime contractors that are required to have percentages of minorities working with them can fulfill their needs now that more minorities are working with new technology. That was not common before."

While Antolinez started his company to live a more positive lifestyle, he wants to help others achieve the same thing. "What I like about this technology is that it's not only to make money, but we can also help in a disaster or any disaster relief process. I would like to make sure that all of the technology that we have can be used to help people."

Antolinez, a native of Colombia, South America, has worked in IT for 26 years. He has a master's degree in telecommunications and training in business engineering. While his client base is centralized in Missouri, he plans to open an office in his native country.