

TECHNOLOGY

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A Silicon Valley driverless trucking company is opening Dallas-area site, targeting Texas

A driverless trucking company is expanding to the Dallas area with its first location outside its California headquarters.

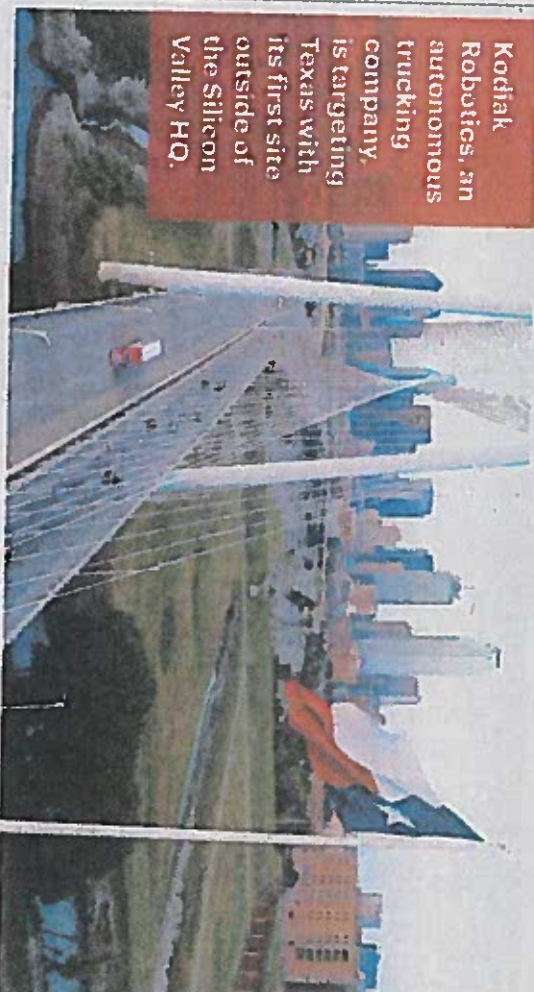
Kodiak Robotics announced recently that it will be supporting its growing testing and freight operations from a new facility in North Texas. The company, based in Mountain View, Calif., has about eight workers for its Lancaster location, a sizable portion of the roughly 60 overall.

"Kodiak chose Dallas because it is the center of Texas's freight economy, with a strategic location and high demand for trucks to Houston, Austin/San Antonio, Laredo, and El Paso," the company said in an emailed statement. "Additionally, Dallas has a great workforce, with lots of the trucking and logistics expertise Kodiak will need as its business grows."

The trucks will be carrying freight between Dallas and Houston, the company said. The first deliveries, started recently, includes a safety driver behind the wheel. Texas is the home base for testing and operations after extensive piloting in California, the company said in a separate blog.

Kodiak Robotics, started about 16 months ago, arrives in Texas after raising \$40 mil-

Kodiak Robotics, an autonomous trucking company, is targeting Texas with its first site outside of the Silicon Valley HQ.



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lion from some big names in venture capital, including Battery Ventures, CRY, Lightspeed Venture Partners and Tusk Ventures. The company said autonomous driving with trucks needs a different approach.

"Building a self-driving truck using technology originally developed for a car may save time in the short term, but ultimately will not get the job done," the company said in the blog. "That's why we are building a full-stack solution designed

for trucks. Our hardware is tested and calibrated for our trucks and our software is designed to take advantage of that hardware."

Trucking in particular could benefit from autonomous vehicles, given the shortage of drivers in the industry, the company noted on its website. Highway driving is more structured and predictable than urban driving, making it a better fit, it said.