

History of the Remote Tower Program at Leesburg Executive Airport

Date	Action
March 2015	Town entered into agreement with Saab and Virginia SATS Lab to be the first North American remote tower test site.
2015	Remote Tower equipment installed by Saab in airport terminal.
2016	Initial testing by FAA-certified control tower operators begun.
2017-2018	Temporary mobile tower installed. Simultaneous testing between the remote and the on-site mobile tower took place.
June 2018	Start of continuous, daily ATC services from remote tower. FAA operational testing progressed through various phases and safety risk management panels.
2019	Town signed 20-year rent-free lease with County for space on Miller Drive for permanent location of the Remote Tower Center (RTC).
2020	FAA funded build-out of RTC on Miller Drive.
Oct 2020	Town accepted into Federal Contract Tower program for a brick-and-mortar tower (because option for RTC did not exist).
May 2021	RTC relocated to Miller Drive.
Sept 2021	FAA issued memo regarding Operational Viability of remote tower at Leesburg Executive Airport.
Feb 2022	STARS Radar installed in RTC on Miller Drive, funded by FAA (\$1M)
2022	FAA communicated with Town on planning for the transition of the remote tower program from NextGen to the Federal Contract Tower program. FAA extended its authorization to Robinson Aviation controllers to continue through December 1, 2023.
Feb 7, 2023	Saab sent letter to FAA informing agency that it would no longer pursue technical certification of the current system in place at Leesburg due to new System Design Approval criteria imposed by the FAA in 2021.
Feb 21, 2023	FAA informed Town of its decision to end the remote tower program and that ATC services will cease at JYO on June 14, 2023.