

2026-9-17

Gen RE

A: FRONT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

Denver tech firm moves HQ to Kansas

Company grew up downtown, its name on 15th St. building

Translate



Optiv Security appears to have fallen out of love with Denver and relocated its headquarters to the Kansas City, Kan., area. The Optiv Building displayed this giant heart in Denver on April 6, 2020. The 40-story building is 603 feet tall, at 15th and Arapahoe streets in downtown Denver. HYOONG CHANGE — DENVER POST FILE

By Aldo Svaldi
asvaldi@denverpost.com

Optiv Security, Colorado's leading cybersecurity firm, has relocated its headquarters from Denver to Leawood, Kan., dealing another blow to the region's reeling tech sector.

1

Maddy Stevenson, a vice president with JLL, speaking on a panel at the Colorado Commercial Real Estate Symposium, said that Denver's office market has become a game of "musical chairs." *Note*

"Demand is internal," she said Wednesday morning.

Tenants move around, typically from older buildings to newer ones with more amenities. But few new tenants are arriving from out of state to boost overall demand for office space. *Note*

And when big and high-profile tenants leave the state, that is a problem.

Palantir has a market value almost as large as all other Colorado public companies combined and a global workforce of 4,500. Optiv is the largest "pure-play" cybersecurity integrator, with about 2,800 workers worldwide and 75% of Fortune 500 companies as clients.

Colorado for years had to cope with California tech firms and venture capitalists picking off its most promising tech startups and relocating them.

What it has faced in 2026 was the loss of two of its largest technology firms, one public and one private.

In April, a coalition of 230 business, technology and civic leaders under the banner Ensuring Colorado's Innovation Future signed a letter warning that the state was losing its hard-won reputation as an innovation hub. *Note*

The letter urged immediate action, arguing the state and its residents could suffer irreparable harm for decades to come.

"Despite the extraordinary progress of the past two decades — and despite these enduring structural advantages — the foundation of Colorado technology and business leadership is deteriorating," the letter said.

This summer, Gov. Jared Polis formed a competitiveness council to try to understand how and why Colorado has fallen behind other states on key economic measures like job growth and corporate retention.

The Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade also plans to conduct more "exit" interviews of departing companies to better understand why they are leaving Colorado.

Optiv likely will be on that list. But it appears the company has been facing internal stresses beyond what some might argue is a less friendly business climate in Colorado.

KKR
KKR has tried and failed to sell the company, and plans for an IPO went nowhere, in part because of the \$1 billion in debt KKR loaded onto Optiv's balance sheet as part of the leveraged buyout in 2016.

Higher interest rates have contributed to rising debt payments, eating into the company's cash flows and resulting in S&P cutting the company's credit rating deep into junk territory.

KKR and Optiv have worked out extensions with creditors, pushing repayments back to 2028 and 2029, but the agreements don't address the core problem of excessive debt.

Optiv has shifted from expanding its market to surviving the heavy financial load its private equity owners have placed on it. And Denver was on the losing end of that struggle.