

Nashville's downtown wins big with two recent announcements

Nashville's economy is on the upswing, with the region's two largest industries — health care and tourism — getting boosts from new developments.

Market Center Management Company of Dallas, Texas — along with local, state and regional economic development partners — announced plans in November to locate the world's first-ever medical trade center on the site of the current Nashville Convention Center. Developers for the Nashville Medical Trade Center (NMTC) estimate the project will cost around \$250 million and create approximately 2,700 new jobs.

Over the next three years, Market Center will convert the existing Nashville Convention Center into a permanent home for medical trade shows, conventions and other industry gatherings. The 15-story facility will be a one-stop shop where healthcare providers can purchase items such as imaging and diagnostic equipment, medical furniture and information technology systems directly from the manufacturers.



The proposed Nashville Medical Trade Center will be located on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Broadway in downtown Nashville.

the heart of downtown Nashville, will more than double the meeting and exhibit space available in the current convention center. Plans call for the facility to feature a 350,000-square-foot exhibit hall, more than 50 meeting rooms, two ballrooms and approximately 36 loading docks.

Construction of the Music City Center project will create an estimated 2,500 to 3,000 jobs.

On the heels of the NMTC announcement, city officials approved construction of a new 1.2-million-square-foot, \$585 million convention center, scheduled to open in 2013.

Music City Center, located in

NATIONAL RANKINGS

Best Places to Live in 2010

Men's Journal magazine has named Nashville one of the "Best Places to Live in 2010." Nashville was among 25 U.S. and Canadian cities featured.

Men's Journal, March 2010

2009 State of the Year

Tennessee was named the 2009 State of the Year by *Business Facilities* magazine. The \$1.2 billion Hemlock Semiconductor project in Clarksville was also named the magazine's 2009 Silver Award winner for the Economic Development Deal of the Year. In 2009, Tennessee reported 16,700 new jobs and \$3.1 billion in new capital investment.

Business Facilities magazine, January 2010

America's Fastest-Recovering Cities

Nashville ranked 19th as one of America's Fastest-Recovering Cities Based on diversified industries and relatively stable housing that give residents a measure of economic security.

Forbes magazine, December 2009

Best Business Climate

Tennessee ranked as the fifth-best state in the country to do business, according to *Site Selection* magazine. The Volunteer State has been ranked in the top five for five of the past seven years. The annual business climate rankings are determined by the state's economic performance and surveys of corporate site selectors nationwide.

Site Selection magazine, November 2009

International manufacturer begins \$34M expansion in Middle Tennessee

A London-based company whose fabrics are used in products from water filters to protective clothing is expanding in the Nashville area.

Fiberweb broke ground in November on a \$34 million project at its plant site in Old Hickory, Tenn. The project consists of a new research and development center and a 12,500-square-foot central utility plant, and is expected to be complete in the second half of this year.

“The decision by Fiberweb to make this significant investment in its Old Hickory facility is fantastic news for Middle

Tennessee,” said Nashville Mayor Karl Dean. “Fiberweb has been a great corporate citizen for many years, with more than 600 employees at its two Davidson County facilities. This investment in its R&D facility and new power plant is also a vote of confidence in our community, which we appreciate very much.”



L-R: John Schaffer, vice president of operations, Constellation Energy Projects & Services Group; Ralph Schulz, president and CEO of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce; John Juric, president, Fiberweb Americas; and Mike Cox, senior director of R&D, Fiberweb Americas Industrial Division, break ground at the Fiber web site on Nov. 12, 2009.

Music manufacturer relocates HQ to Nashville region

KHS America, the provider and distributor of Jupiter wind instruments, Mapex drums, Majestic concert percussion and Altus flutes, announced plans in February to relocate their corporate headquarters from Austin, Texas to Mt. Juliet, Tenn. With 61 total positions, the company will initially relocate 15 to 20 families and will create 54 new jobs at the 100,000-square-foot headquarters facility.

The new custom-designed building will house all corporate functions, warehouse and shipping facilities and new instrument testing, quality assurance and visitor center areas.



“The Nashville area is centrally located to many more of our customers,” said Tabor Stamper, president of KHS America. “Its live music activity works well for our Mapex drum set business and the active music education efforts in the area provide a wonderful base from which we can continue to grow.”

Akebono Brake Systems (manufacturing)

Clarksville, Tenn.'s braking systems manufacturer, which has been known as Bosch, became Japanese-owned Akebono in December 2009 after a corporate buyout. Akebono will add 300 new jobs for a total of 700 at the plant and make a \$13.5 million investment in new equipment.

Montgomery County

Cogent Healthcare (health care, HQ)

Cogent, which specializes in designing and managing hospitalist programs, is adding 7,561 square feet at its Brentwood, Tenn. headquarters.

Williamson County

Emdeon (health care, HQ)

Emdeon Inc., a Nashville-based medical-billing company, is moving its data center into a 34,232-square-foot facility from its former corporate headquarters building.

Davidson County

Fleet One Holdings (financial, HQ)

Fleet One Holdings, a fuel card and financial service provider supporting the transportation industry, is expanding the staff at their headquarters facility in Nashville, adding 49 new jobs to their current 190 employees. This expansion represents a \$2.7 million investment by the company.

Davidson County

Permobil, Inc. (manufacturing)

Permobil Inc., a Swedish manufacturer of custom-made powered wheelchairs, is building a \$12 million, 120,000-square-foot operations center in Lebanon, Tenn.'s Eastgate Business Park 840. The company plans to double its Middle Tennessee work force within the next three to five years.

Wilson County

Wei Chuan USA (manufacturing, distribution)

Wei Chuan USA, Inc., the largest producer of Chinese food in North America, is expanding its current operations to manufacture and distribute all of its product lines from its location in Murfreesboro, Tenn. This will be Wei Chuan's Eastern U.S. distribution center and will add 317 jobs to its current employment of 190 food-production workers. The expansion represents an investment of more than \$19 million.

Rutherford County

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