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Auburn lands office products company: New industrial complex will be regional base for Corporate Express

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by [Clayton Park](#)
Journal Business Editor

A company that describes itself as "the world's largest business-to-business distributor of office products" will make Auburn its new regional base of operations for Washington and Oregon a year from now.

Broomfield, Colo.-based Corporate Express Office Products Inc. recently signed a multiyear lease for a 168,000-square-foot space in a new industrial business complex that's being built just south of the State Route 167/South 277th Street exit in Auburn.

The company plans to move 180 workers to the new Auburn North Distribution Center next fall, including approximately 140 workers who work at Corporate Express facilities in Renton and Kent and possibly some workers from its distribution center in Portland, Ore., which is set to close next year.

Steve Nasca, Corporate Express' division president for Washington state, said the company could eventually add more workers in Auburn, depending on the growth of its business in this region.

Nasca said the company will likely begin hiring in either late spring or early summer 2006 to fill the 40 positions it will create when it moves to Auburn.

Corporate Express employees in Portland will be given an opportunity to apply to be transferred here, said Nasca, who added that he did not know how many would be willing to make the move.

The company considered locations for its new regional distribution center in both Washington and Oregon before selecting Auburn, Nasca said.

Auburn was chosen because it was a "more attractive site for the nature of building we wanted to build" and because of its proximity to Seattle and Bellevue, where Corporate Express has a number of customers.

The company's clients include the University of Washington, the state of Washington, "Fortune 500 companies" and mid-sized and small businesses, Nasca said.

Corporate Express currently leases a 64,000-square-foot space in a building in Renton and 24,000 square feet of space in a building in Kent.

The company has had operations in the greater Seattle area since the mid-1980s, when it acquired the commercial business portion of the old Trick & Murray Office Products company and merged it with another business it acquired called John L.

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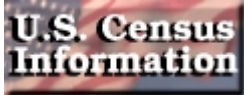
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Bird Company.

A number of Trick & Murray retail stores continued to do business in the Seattle area until a couple of years ago, but were not connected with Corporate Express, Nasca said.



Corporate Express is a wholly owned subsidiary of Buhrmann NV, an international business services and distribution group based in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Corporate Express generated \$4.5 billion in sales in North America last year.

In addition to selling a variety of "name brand" office products and furniture, Nasca said his company also sells its own line of Corporate Express brand products.

The Auburn North Distribution Center is a 397,000-square-foot industrial business park that is being developed by Panattoni Development on behalf of the property's owner, ING Clarion Partners.

Brian Bruininks, Dave Baumer and George Rockwell were the brokers with The Andover Company who represented Panattoni in negotiating the lease with Corporate Express. Arie Salomon and Mike Newton were the brokers with Puget Sound Properties who represented the tenant.

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