

# FedEx presence growing in Springs

## *Data center expansion confirmed*

By WAYNE HEILMAN THE GAZETTE

Package shipping giant FedEx Corp. confirmed Wednesday that its new building in northern Colorado Springs will house an expanded data center.

The center at 250 Spectrum Loop, in the Northgate business park, will include 113,400 square feet of space, nearly twice the size of the center FedEx now uses at 5550 Tech Center Drive, near Rockrimmon Boulevard and Interstate 25.

The company's data center houses servers that handle package tracking and customs clearance for international customers, according to a 2000 news release. The company said the 40 employees from the Tech Center Drive center will move to the new facility when it is completed.

The new building is next to FedEx's 153,000-square-foot Rocky Mountain Technology Center, which employs 620 computer programmers, software developers, project managers and technical staff. They develop and improve package tracking and other software.

FedEx also may be expanding the software operation. Bob Tegler, a senior city planner, said Wednesday developers had contacted him about another building on the FedEx campus. Tegler added no details were available because a formal filing hasn't been made.

"This is a great development for Colorado Springs," said David White, vice president of the Colorado Springs Economic Development Corp. "The decision to build a data center here will solidify and strengthen the company's investment in Colorado Springs."

The new center initially will include 24,000 square feet of space for servers and related equipment, but the second floor will remain unfinished for potential expansion, according to plans for the building filed with the Pikes Peak Regional Building Department.

Like other data centers in Colorado Springs and around the nation, the FedEx facility includes its own generator as well as banks of batteries and backup power systems to ensure the company's servers will continue to operate during a power failure.

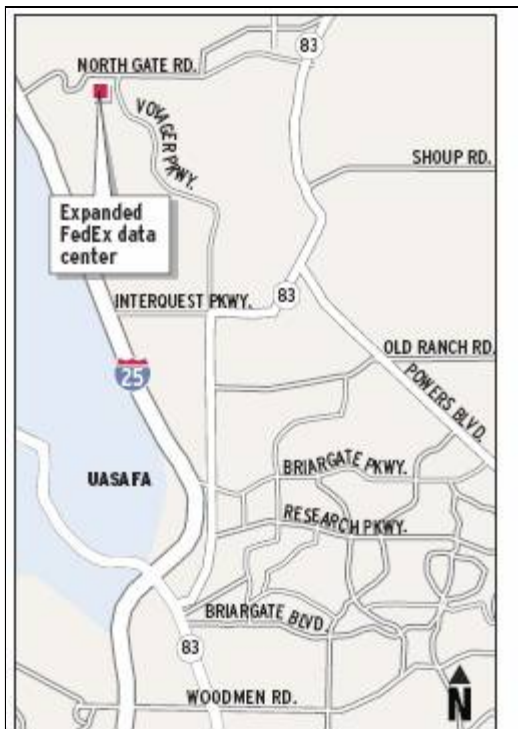
The EDC has been pitching Colorado Springs as an attractive site for corporate data centers because of its state-of-the-art telecommunications networks, low-cost and reliable electric power, and a location not prone to hurricanes, earthquakes and other natural disasters. Among the targets: companies that already operate customer service centers here.

"The FedEx project confirms that our strategy is working. We should see more of these kinds of investments in the near future," White said.

The regional building department issued a permit Wednesday for the \$25 million project to Englewood-based Calcon Constructors Inc. A Raleigh, N.C., real estate trust, Highwood Properties Inc., will own the building and lease it to FedEx when it's finished in April 2008.

The 25-year-old Tech Center Drive center, owned by New York-based Lexington Realty Trust and leased to FedEx, is already on the market for lease and has been offered to other companies that are considering opening data centers in the Springs, White said.

The new FedEx center will be less than a mile from a 175,000-square-foot center Progressive Corp. opened last year in Northgate. That center, which also includes facilities that print documents, will employ 140 by year's end.



THE GAZETTE



**KEVIN KRECK, THE GAZETTE** Construction was under way Wednesday on the new, expanded FedEx data center in the Northgate business park.



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