

High-tech firm to move to Ellensburg

New Business Park planned at airport

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By [PATRICK CARLSON](#)

With a new home in Ellensburg on the horizon, Cle Elum technology company Comtronic Systems is preparing to expand its business.

After a planned move in summer 2007 into a new facility at the Kittitas County Airport Business Park, the software firm will likely expand to 38 employees over the next three years, Comtronic Systems President Jeff Dantzler said Monday. The company, which makes debt collection software, currently employs 17 people in its Cle Elum office.

A move to Houston was considered, but the business park location gave Comtronic the infrastructure it needed to expand, Dantzler said. Two-thirds of Comtronic's employees already live in Ellensburg.

“We wanted to keep the jobs local,” he said.

The new building is a planned 15,000-square-foot facility at the intersection of Airport and Bowers roads. Continued expansion could see more than 100 employees at the company within 10 years, according to Dantzler.

The Ellensburg Business Development Authority will own the new facility and lease it to Comtronic. It will be built thanks to a \$1 million loan and grant from the state Office of Community, Trade and Economic Development. The location has direct access to Interstate 90 as well as connections for fiber-optic communication.

Debbie Strand of the Economic Development Group of Kittitas County said it's exciting that Ellensburg will see more high-tech family-wage jobs created. The group has worked with the EBDA as well as the city and the county to improve the airport business park area. More than \$6 million has been spent on telecommunication, road and utility improvements there, including an expansion of Bowers Road that connects it to Reecer Creek Road and Interstate 90.

Now that the road is complete and with Comtronic's upcoming relocation to the business park, EDG board member Desmond Knudson hopes it will stir interest from other firms.

“Now that we have this we believe we can attract more businesses,” he said.