

Software firm expansion brings more jobs

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By [MAI HOANG](#)

ELLENSBURG -- A Cle Elum-based software company expects to hire 38 new employees over three years as part of its expansion plans.

Comtronic Systems, a developer of call-center software, is working with the Economic Development Group of Kittitas County and the Ellensburg Business Development Authority to build a 15,000-square-foot building at the Kittitas County Airport Business Park in Ellensburg.

The building, which the company will lease from the two economic development organizations, has enough space to accommodate future expansions, said Debbie Strand, executive director of the Economic Development Group of Kittitas County.

Jeff Dantzer, president of Comtronic Systems, could not be reached Monday for comment. The company currently leases 7,000 square feet of office space in Cle Elum and has 17 employees.

The expansion is prompted by the company's success of CallThru, its newest call-center system software. The company plans to hire employees in information technology, sales, marketing and technical support and will pay family-level wages, Strand said.

The two economic development groups received a \$1 million in financing from the state to construct the building, which will cost approximately \$1.2 million. The remaining funds will come from Kittitas County, the Economic Development Group of Kittitas County and the company, Strand said. The building's construction is expected to be completed by next summer.

The building is along a new extension of Bowers Road. With the new extension, the business park can accommodate an additional 30 acres of industrial development, said Charlotte Tullos, chairwoman of the Ellensburg Business Development Authority.

"This is a big thing for us. We're trying to bring in the industry and business that will keep some of our people in this town and meet some of the needs of this unbelievable growth," Tullos said.

* Mai Hoang can be reached at 577-7685 or mhoang@yakimaherald.com.