

Hettich selects Gwinnett for consolidation

Hettich America L.P., a global maker of hardware for kitchen cabinets, residential furniture and appliances, is moving to Gwinnett County.

Hettich America will consolidate its 55,000-square-foot Baldwin manufacturing plant and another 55,000-square-foot Alpharetta facility into a new location in Buford.

The consolidation will initially bring 100 jobs to Gwinnett, and possibly another 50 jobs in the next few years.

The move enables Hettich to combine its sales, production and product development operations under one roof, said Thomas Ginschel, president of Hettich America.

The relocation was driven less by cost-savings than by the desire to upgrade its image in metro Atlanta. The move also reflects the company's environmental standards.



Ginschel
Hettich America

The building also uses equipment that conserves energy. The Gwinnett facility is Hettich's only U.S.-based location.

"The building reflects our standards," Ginschel said. "It looks and feels like Hettich."

The location is within Hamilton Mill Industrial Park, owned and developed by **Industrial Development International Inc.**

The 238-acre business park strategically has more than 3.6 million square feet of industrial space.

The new building for Hettich raises the company's metro Atlanta profile and could help it attract new employees. The company's

hiring plans, however, depend heavily on recovery of the residential and appliance markets.

Hettich America cut up to 40 jobs during the downturn.

"We're seeing some signs of improvement," Ginschel said. "Some aspects of the market have come back quite a bit."

Alison Starnes, the **Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce's** business development manager for manufacturing and logistics, helped facilitate the deal to relocate Hettich.

Hettich America brings Gwinnett substantial capital investment through the purchase of new office furniture and technology tools, according to the chamber.

Hettich produces slides, hinges, drawer systems and other hardware for kitchen cabinets, residential furniture and appliances. Its customers include Whirlpool/Maytag, American Woodmark, Homecrest and Sub-Zero. The company plans to open the new facility in 2011.



**REAL ESTATE
NOTES**
Douglas Sams

CENTRAL PERIMETER RENEWAL. National environmental engineering firm **Hazen and Sawyer P.C.** has renewed its nearly 7,000-square-foot lease at Peachtree Dunwoody Pavilion.

The lease term is at least five years. **Newmark Knight Frank** Managing Directors Aaron Sommer and Andy Rosenberg represented the company.

Hazen and Sawyer uses the space as its client services branch office for the state of Georgia.

Hazen and Sawyer considered multiple alternatives, including The Palisades and 1117 Perimeter Center, before renewing at Peachtree Dunwoody Pavilion.

The landlord, **Parkway Properties L.P.**, was represented by Kate Elmo, regional manager of **Parkway Realty Services.**

STANDING OUT. **Thompson Hine LLP** is the first law firm to move into one of the new Buckhead office towers.

Tishman Speyer announced April 19 that Thompson Hine is relocating to its Two Alliance Center, where the law firm will lease 30,048 square feet.

Atlanta Business Chronicle reported April 2 Thompson Hine was close to wrapping up a deal at Tishman Speyer's Two Alliance Center.

Thompson Hine is a 99-year-old law firm based in Cleveland.

It's recognized globally as a leading corporate law firm.

Its relocation enables the firm to raise its profile in Buckhead, known more as a business center than as a hub for the city's legal industry.

It's moving from Midtown, home to longtime city legal fixtures **Alston & Bird LLP** and **King & Spalding LLP.**

For the past five years, Thompson Hine has leased office space in One

Atlantic Center, anchored by Alston & Bird.

Thompson Hine joins fellow Two Alliance Center tenants such as the consultant Marsh & McLennan Companies, aluminum giant Novelis Inc. and Turner Construction.



Lechter
Studley Inc.

Studley Inc.'s Andy Lechter and Josh Hirsh represented Thompson Hine in the transaction.



Hirsh
Studley Inc.

The deal is valued at almost \$11 million, excluding concessions and escalation.

Thompson Hine is expected to move in to the building later this year.

Besides Atlanta, the firm has offices in Brussels, Belgium; Cincinnati; Cleveland;

Columbus and Dayton, Ohio; New York; and Washington.

Thompson Hine is not the only firm considering a relocation to the heart of Buckhead.

Greenberg Traurig LLP has also been in discussions about a possible move from The Forum/Piazza at Paces to Terminus 200.