

Amazon picks Port 95 Industrial Park for expansion

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Amazon.com has leased nearly 248,000 square feet of new warehouse space to expand its presence in the city.



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Retailing giant Amazon.com is getting ready to expand its Baltimore distribution hub this spring.

The Seattle-based company is planning to move into 248,000 square feet of new Class A warehouse space at 5300 Holabird Ave. The retailer will share space there with Johns Hopkins Medical System, which leased 165,140 square feet of space there last year.

Details of the upcoming Amazon expansion in Southeast Baltimore were the focus of an internal memorandum recently obtained by the Baltimore Business Journal. The new warehouse will be called "MTN5" and is located in Port 95 Industrial Park, a sprawling industrial complex owned by EverWest Real Estate Investors LLC.

The group purchased the 413,100-square-foot facility last April for \$38.7 million, state records show.

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The 413,100-square-foot warehouse was built in late 2017.

Amazon spokeswoman Rachael Lighty declined to comment specifically on the expansion.

“Amazon is constantly investigating new locations to support the company’s growth and increase the flexibility of its North American fulfillment network to continue to delight our customers,” Lighty said, in a statement. “Amazon is proud to call Maryland home and to have created more than 5,000 jobs across the state. The company is committed to continuing investments in Maryland with our time, resources and community dedication.”

The internal memo on the warehouse expansion says in part: “We are excited to announce some new updates in regards to the launch of the new building 'MTN5. Currently, we have a target launch date of early spring 2019! We hope that you all are ready to be a part of a winning site.”

Amazon's expansion takes place months after a deadly tornado damaged a portion of a nearby Amazon facility at 2010 Broening Highway. The complex is located across the street from Port 95 and next to a 1-million-square-foot Amazon warehouse, both owned by Duke Realty. It is still undergoing repairs.

The Nov. 3 incident occurred as a tornado ripped through a portion of the city's Southeast area and caused a 50-foot wall and partial roof to collapse killing two third-party workers hired by Amazon.

Seattle-based Amazon (NASDAQ: AMZN) first opened on Broening Highway in 2015 at a rebuilt warehouse site that once housed a General Motors plant. It was Amazon's first foray into the Maryland marketplace, and the complex has grown to include three additional warehouse, sortation and distribution facilities with about 3,000 shift workers since. Most of the employees at Broening are full-time workers.

Amazon has continued to expand its presence in other parts of the state. Last year, the retailer opened a 900,000-plus square foot warehouse at Tradepoint Atlantic and in 2017 the company opened a 1.15-million-square-foot facility in Cecil County.