

# Microsoft Corporation Chooses NorthLake for Data Center

## Chicago Area Benefits From Energy Efficient, State-Of-The-Art Facility to Host Web Servers

**CHICAGO, IL (November 7, 2007)** – Microsoft today announced that ground has been broken and construction is underway on its 550,000 square-foot data center in Northlake, Illinois, with the opening planned for April, 2008. The data center, developed by the partnership of Ascent Corporation and The Koman Group, will now host the next generation of technology to serve Internet services.

Described as the place “where the Internet lives,” the Microsoft data center will house tens of thousands of servers providing information and web-based applications to Internet users worldwide. With the continued growth of Microsoft offerings such as Windows Live, Hotmail, MSN Video and many others, data centers are becoming increasingly more important as users access enhanced services through the Internet.

“The Chicagoland Area has long been known as a center of innovation and shown an admirable commitment to growing next-generation businesses,” said Debra Chrapaty, corporate vice president for Global Foundation Services at Microsoft. “This facility will feature innovative designs to minimize energy consumption, such as *airside economization*, which uses outside air for cooling, and other technologies which fully optimize the facility. This brings us closer to our goal of efficiently and responsibly delivering online services to customers in the Chicago area and throughout the world.”

“We are excited about our expansion in the Chicagoland area, and especially gratified to bring a modern facility to help renew a previously developed urban area,” said Janet Kennedy, general manager for Microsoft’s Midwest District. “This new data center will add significant infrastructure, allowing us to meet growing demands of consumers and businesses for Internet services and it serves to further reinforce our commitment to the area.”

Illinois State Senator Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, said, "The investment that Microsoft is making in my district is exciting. The data center will create good jobs in cutting edge technology and transform an abandoned industrial site into a hub of IT activity for the new economy. I would hope that Microsoft's decision to invest here will generate other construction activity in the area."

Ascent and Koman began construction of the center began in September, and is projected to be completed in April 2008. The investment is estimated at approximately \$500 million dollars for data center construction.

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