



**Economic Development News from the Greater Des Moines Partnership**

This is the fourth quarter Economic Development Newsletter. Below you'll find a recap of 2009 expansions, relocations and happenings in Greater Des Moines.

**2009 Successes for Metro Des Moines**

**John Deere Credit**  
In the fall, a 145,000 square-foot building addition was added to the headquarters in Johnston, costing \$36 million and creating the capacity to house 500 additional employees.

**Aviva USA**  
The world's fifth largest insurance group built a new U.S. headquarters on 71 acres of undeveloped land in West Des Moines. Scheduled to open in 2010, the project will cost up to \$150 million and will create hundreds of new jobs for the metro.

**Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield**  
The first company-owned headquarters broke ground in the downtown Des Moines' "Western Gateway Park" area. The \$194 million project is a 550,000 square-foot building that will be ready for occupancy by 1,700 staff members by late 2010.

**Pappajohn Sculpture Park**  
Des Moines philanthropists John and Mary Pappajohn donated 24 major pieces of internationally acclaimed modern and contemporary art valued at \$40 million to the Des Moines Art Center and the City of Des Moines which created the now world-renowned sculpture park.

**Pioneer Hi-Bred, a DuPont Business**  
This spring, Pioneer Hi-Bred, a DuPont Business, expanded its Johnston campus- a \$37 million project that created space for 290 jobs. The 144,000 square-foot expansion included upgrades to the greenhouse, warehouse and data center facilities. During the summer, an additional 30,000 square-foot expansion, creating over 200 jobs, also occurred in Johnston to accommodate job growth in research and information management. The second addition was a \$4.5 million project.

**Look Who's Talking**  
*about Greater Des Moines*

**MarketWatch, December 2009**  
Ranked Des Moines as the best city for business in the U.S.

**MSN.com, November 2009**  
Des Moines was ranked first in the nation for real estate as the "Most Livable Bargain Market."

**Woods & Poole Economics**  
Des Moines is expected to create 4,500 new jobs and have population growth of 6,200 people this year. The finance and insurance sectors will add more than \$100 million to the Des Moines economy.

**CNNMoney.com, October 2009**  
Ranked Metro Des Moines in the top ten mid-sized metro areas to launch a small business.

**MSNBC.com, November 2009**  
Des Moines is one of 100 metro areas in the nation that have started to recover from the recession.

**Moody's Economy.com, 2009**  
Des Moines is 15% below the national average for cost of doing business.

**ACCRA Cost of Living Index**  
Des Moines living costs are 9% below the national average for the Third Quarter 2009.

To learn more, visit our website at [www.desmoinesmetro.com](http://www.desmoinesmetro.com) or contact  
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