

SUNDAY
Business

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Renderings
show
planned
offices
for Alta
Resources
at Skyplex.
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Alta Resources shares its plans for growth

Multimillion-dollar building to come to Skyplex in Fort Myers

Laura Layden Naples Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Alta Resources has unveiled plans for a multimillion-dollar building at Skyplex around the busy Southwest Florida International Airport in Fort Myers.

The company, headquartered in Wisconsin, expanded to Fort Myers in 2013. It provides customer care, sales fulfillment, e-commerce and back-office services to its clients, which span the globe.

Since launching its Florida operations more than five years ago, Alta's employee count has more than doubled here, growing from 300 to more than 600.

Local employees provide support to Alta Resources' globally recognized clients, such as Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and Reebok.

Alta was tight-lipped about its expansion plans until Thursday, when it held a news conference to formally announce them — and to share renderings of what the \$21 million building will look like at Skyplex, the airport's commerce park.

"We have options on land that would allow us to build another building some time in the future, but we have no plans to build that building at this time," said Alta Resources' CEO Jim Beré.

The expansion is expected to create more than 480 full-time jobs and more than 300 part-time jobs locally.



The new building will have the capacity to hold about 1,000 employees, Beré said.

"We also have our current facility, which we are also keeping at this time. So we are focused on this market as a company for continued growth," he said.

A 'great workforce'

Alta has two other buildings in the Gateway community just north of the Fort Myers airport.

"As our business grows, our plans are to continue to bring jobs to the Fort Myers facilities because we have a great workforce down here and we are really pleased with the people who work with us in leadership and management," Beré said.

The company initially chose to locate in

the Fort Myers area because it wanted to be close to universities and it liked the size of the market. Having universities such as Florida Gulf Coast and Florida SouthWestern in Alta's backyard is "a very significant plus for us," Beré said.

"We felt that it was a market that was large enough to handle the number of people we had," he said. "But we looked at the future of the whole Fort Myers area and Southwest Florida and it was continuing to grow."

As the area grows there will be more people to fill Alta's growing number of jobs, Beré said.

Like other companies, Alta will have a ground lease at the commerce park.

For the first five years, Alta will pay about \$7,267 a month for the lease, with payments starting no later than March 1, 2021. It's a 30-year lease, with the ability to extend the term for another 20 years.

Alta's expansion plans call for a 90,000-square-foot Class A office building — meaning the offices will be of the highest quality with the high quality finishes and state-of-the-art systems.

A global business

Alta has clients in many industries including health care, automotive and entertainment, and it does business with some of the world's largest consumer packaged goods companies, such as Procter & Gamble.

"As we grow our business in any of those respective areas, we need to determine where do we put that business," Beré said.

Clients turn to Alta's call centers for help

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Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida adds three to Hall of Fame

Laura Layden
Naples Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Three more entrepreneurs can now call themselves hall-of-famers in Southwest Florida.

The founder of a check printing business and longtime restaurateurs are the latest to join Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida's Business Hall of Fame.

For their business success and service as role models to youth and their peers, and their commitment to the community, Dave Copham and Scott and Diana Willis, are the latest to receive the special recognition.

The trio of winners were honored as laureates and inducted into the Hall of Fame dur-

ing a ceremony Thursday night at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point in Bonita Springs.

Hundreds attended the ceremony, including students and business and community leaders.

The annual event raises money to support Junior Achievement's mission.

Junior Achievement reaches thousands of students with its programs in Lee, Collier and Charlotte counties every year, providing them with mentorship opportunities and classes on such topics as financial literacy and career and work readiness.

Locally, the organization partnered with more than 200 classroom business volunteers during the 2017-2018 school, providing nearly 63,800 hours of instruction to more than 11,600 students in 519 classes.

The three laureates join dozens of others who have been named to the Hall of Fame in Southwest Florida since the recognition program began in 1988.

Laureates don't have to be involved in Junior Achievement, but they do have to be involved in the community.

Here's a look at this year's inductees:

Dave Copham

In 1985 Copham founded Liberty Check Printers. The company, headquartered in Mounds View, Minnesota, grew to become a leading supplier of personal checks for credit unions in the United States.

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