

Amazon to open third metro Phoenix site

by **Betty Beard and Lynh Bui** - Aug. 13, 2010 02:17 PM
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[Amazon.com](#) Inc. in October plans to open its third metro Phoenix order-fulfillment center, which should create several hundred Valley jobs. The newest center, where customers' online orders will be filled and [shipped](#), will be more than 1 million square feet in west Phoenix, larger than Amazon's two other Valley centers.

Mary Osako, a spokesperson for the Seattle-based company, said Amazon will hire several hundred full-time hourly positions to start, as well as hundreds of temporary workers during peak holiday seasons.

The retail online company has two other order-fulfillment centers, an 800,000-square-foot center in Goodyear and a 600,000-square-foot center in Phoenix. The Goodyear center has hired about 700 extra workers over holidays.

The Arizona Commerce Authority, established in July to eventually replace the Arizona Department of Commerce, and Gov. Jan Brewer met with Amazon officials to encourage them to open the third center in Arizona, said David Drennon, a spokesman for [the commerce department](#).

"The Arizona Commerce Authority really became very aggressive to work with the company to meet its needs. The governor was at the table as well as the entire business development staff to get their questions answered," Drennon said.

Amazon inked a ten and a half year lease at 4750 W. Mohave Street, near 51st Avenue and Buckeye Road, Phoenix officials say.

Talks with Amazon have been going on for more than a year, said Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon. It will be Amazon's largest fulfillment center in the United States, city officials said.

"It shows that there's some economic light to the end of the tunnel for the state," Gordon said.

The city will now work with Amazon to expedite permits and other bureaucratic details to get the company's new center up and running by the end of the year, said Don Maxwell, Phoenix's economic development [director](#).

Phoenix and Amazon are discussing plans to hold job fairs close to the planned fulfillment center, which lies in Phoenix Councilman Michael Nowakowski's district. "That's what we are talking about," Nowakowski said. "Secure jobs for people living in that area."

Reporter Jahna Berry contributed to this story. Read more:

<http://www.azcentral.com/business/articles/2010/08/13/20100813amazon-open-third-metro-phoenix-arizona-site.html#ixzz0wnvIcTxy>