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British Firm Expands US Headquarters in Clayton County

Future Forwarding Doubles in Size in Airport Area Opportunity Zone

ATLANTA (June 9, 2014) – The Clayton County Office of Economic Development & Film announced Monday that a global freight forwarding operation is completing its move to the Mountain View Opportunity Zone near Hartsfield-Jackson Airport, nearly doubling in size. Future Forwarding, whose parent company is in the UK, is expanding its US Headquarters operation into more than 140,000 square feet in the Atlanta Tradeport global commerce park off CW Grant Pkwy, bringing with them more than 60 employees.

"We began here in Atlanta as a traditional freight forwarder, and have now broadened our range of services to encompass the whole supply chain," said Colin Smith, Future Forwarding's President. "The proximity to the airport drew us to Clayton County to start; as we grew and needed more space, we were fortunate to remain in the county, now even closer to where our clients want us to be."

At a recent tour of the new facility, Clayton County Commission Chairman Jeff Turner thanked Future Forwarding for their business. "On behalf of the Clayton County Board of Commissioners, I want to thank you for your investment in Clayton County," he said. "The fact that you would entrust your entire US Headquarters operational history to Clayton County speaks volumes about the partnership we have established, and the viability of this region as a global business hub."

Future Forwarding launched their first US presence, in Clayton County, in 2001. "Back then, we only had a staff of four people, and we were in barely 2,000 square feet on Old Dixie Highway," reminisced Smith. "We have experienced considerable growth since 2004 and have continually adapted to customer requirements which has led us to source additional space and move to the next phase in our firm's history."

That search led them to Tradeport, with the help of Hughes Commercial Real Estate broker Tommy Hughes. "Tradeport and the entire Mountain View area is such a strategic location for global companies looking to leverage the proximity to the world's busiest airport, access to an incredible highway and rail network, and the aggressive incentives that are offered in this district," Hughes commented. "It is outstanding."

Established as Atlanta's first certified Foreign Trade Zone, the Atlanta Tradeport is home to a large number of international logistics and freight firms, customs houses and airport-related businesses. In 2009, Clayton County established a Tax Allocation District in the Mountain View area, which includes Tradeport. "Two years later," added Clayton County District 2 Commissioner Gail Hambrick, who represents the communities surrounding the airport area, "the county was awarded its first Opportunity Zone overlaying the same boundaries. That really put the finishing touches on a suite of incentives designed to propel this area forward."

Since that time, numerous corporate relocation and expansion announcements have been made, which is exactly what Clayton County Economic Development Director Grant Wainscott says is the purpose of those types of programs. “These local, state and federal tax credit and incentives programs exist to help communities grow, attract and retain quality jobs and investment,” Wainscott said. “Future Forwarding will be able to take advantage of several of the programs offered, and we couldn’t be prouder of their growth and success.”

About Future Forwarding

Future Forwarding is a privately held freight forwarder in business since 1977 focused on their people and their client partnerships because they believe that when they are positive contributors to their clients’ growth, they will grow with them. Freight forwarders and Customs brokers use identical airlines, shipping lines and Customs services in every country on the planet. This means that they all move their goods and trade by the same rules. Shippers, therefore, need to identify the traits that elevate the companies they choose to work with. At Future Forwarding, with a strong focus on customer service, their PEOPLE are their difference. They hear it over and over again in the testimonials from their customers.

Defying industry norms, their loyal staff remains with them because of their culture where everyone works together recognizing that their customers and their partners are the most important people in their professional world.

About the Clayton County Office of Economic Development & Film

The Clayton County Office of Economic Development & Film is responsible for the retention and expansion of existing industries, the recruitment of new jobs and investment, and the global marketing of the world-class assets of Clayton County. For more information about the county’s economic development efforts, visit their website at www.InvestClayton.com.

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