

The Katy Sun

Rooms To Go buys 118 acres for new facility

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Rooms To Go Chief Executive Officer Jeffrey Seaman, along with Waller County Judge Owen Ralston and Katy Area EDC Chief Executive Lance LaCour, announced last week that Rooms To Go had purchased 118 acres of land along I-10 near the southwest corner of Igloo Road for construction of a 1,200,000 sq. ft. distribution center and 90,000 sq. ft. retail outlet.

The new facility will involve a capital investment of more than \$30 million and employ at least 300 employees, according to the company.

"We have been seeking a site to build a distribution center over the past year to support our new stores opening in Houston, as well as our stores in San Antonio, Austin and surrounding states. Recently, we closed on the 118 acre tract and look forward to beginning construction in the spring of 2008," Seaman said in making the announcement. "The facility will become operational in the fourth quarter of 2009. We feel confident that this site will satisfy our needs in several respects."

Seaman praised the The Staubach Company, Waller County, the State of Texas and the Katy Area EDC for their help in identifying a suitable site and providing technical assistance, support and incentives that were important factors in the decision. RTG currently maintains a distribution facility located in Arlington, as well as several distribution centers in other southeastern states.

Gov. Rick Perry welcomed the new project and facility to Katy and Waller County.

"The state of Texas is pleased Rooms To Go has selected Katy, Texas for their next distribution center location. With the addition of this distribution center, Rooms To Go will provide employ approximately 1,100 Texans," Perry said.

Waller County played an important role in landing the project. The company considered several sites with interstate frontage in the Houston Area before deciding on the Waller County site. Ralston and the county commissioners thanked Rooms To Go for its decision to locate in Waller.

"We are pleased that RTG has chosen to locate in Waller County and the Katy area. The county commissioners approved some incentives and initiated some new incentive programs in conjunction with the RTG project, such as the Chapter 381 Essential Infrastructure Program and our first Texas Enterprise Zone Application," Ralston said. "We feel RTG will have a positive, direct and indirect impact on the area economy and create strong momentum for new light industrial projects in our market,"

Ralston went on to thank county commissioners and the Brookshire-Katy Drainage District for their help in attracting Rooms to Go to Waller County.

The Katy Area EDC was lead economic development organization on the project. CEO Lance LaCour said he gave a sigh of relief on hearing the news of the decision.

"We began working with RTG during the summer of 2006. The project went on life support several times due to the limited number of sites that worked for the project and the size of the site needed," noted LaCour. "After the initial site became unavailable, we worked closely with the Staubach Company and RTG to find another suitable site and developed an incentives package that worked for this 118-acre tract. It was a grueling process for all involved and it took a tremendous team effort to make it happen.

"We appreciate the confidence of RTG in selecting Katy and Waller County and thank all involved for their efforts in bringing this quality Company to the Katy Area."

Rooms To Go started in 1991 with two showrooms in Orlando, Florida, selling household furniture and accessories. Today, RTG has approximately 125 showrooms throughout the southeast United States in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

In Texas, the company has showrooms in Plano, Mesquite, Arlington, Dallas, Frisco, San Antonio, Austin, Grand Prairie and North Richland and employs more than 800 associates. The company is headquartered in Tampa, Florida and Atlanta, Georgia.

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