



Newville Office Depot to bring 250 jobs to area

By **MARCUS RAUHUT** Staff writer

A new Office Depot warehouse in Newville is expected to bring more than 250 new jobs to the area.

A company spokesperson said receiving operations will begin in February.

"It's a very important project," said Omar Shute, executive director of the Cumberland County Economic Development Corp. "No. 1, it's going to bring a \$15 to \$20 million investment into Penn Township and that is also going to help the school district. Immediately, there will be 250 jobs and that may grow in the future. Some of those jobs are going to be managerial and IT jobs. Those jobs are going to pay well."

The Florida-based office supply retailer will occupy 600,000 square feet of the new 1.2 million square-foot building in Key Logistics Park, located south of I-81 near Newville.

"We had been looking at potential places for a little while, but ultimately we chose Newville because of its proximity to what we call the transportation hub of the Northeast," said Office Depot spokeswoman Melissa Perlman.

The facility is Office Depot's first "combination facility" in North America. Combination facilities process products that are shipped out

immediately and those that are shipped out later.

The warehouse will serve retail stores, as well as online and business-to-business customers.

Office Depot worked closely with the Governor's Action Team, Penn Township officials and Cumberland County Economic Development in making the move possible, in addition to SBLM Architects for architectural services and CBRE for real estate brokering.

The transportation and logistics industry was hard hit by the economic downturn; a number of smaller distribution centers, including Chambersburg's [Amazon.com](#) facility, were closed and consolidated into larger facilities.

Shute said in a typical economy, available warehouses would sit vacant for about 9 to 12 months, but during the second and third quarters of 2009, properties were vacant twice as long.

He said this area still fared better than others largely because of the I-81 corridor.

"We did see a drop in occupancy, but we see that things are picking up, not only at Office Depot, but in Cumberland County. [Amazon.com](#) is going to be expanding in Cumberland County," Shute said.

 Marcus Rauhut can be reached at

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