






# BUSINESS


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 Dow +149.82 (6,875.84)


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 Dollar \$1.00 = ¥99.00 €0.790


 Gold -6.90 (\$906.70)


 Silver +0.20 (\$12.92)


 Oil +3.73 (\$45.38)

 Fed. funds Unchanged (0.22%)

 30-year-bonds +0.05 (3.67%)

 30-year-fixed rate mort. 5.07%

 1-year T-bills 0.72%

 10-year-note +0.09 (2.98%)

## Companies expand in East Bay

■ Not every business is contracting, some are moving into bigger buildings and hiring

By George Avalos

STAFF WRITER

Some local companies have steered around the nation's economic maelstrom and charted a course for expansion in the East Bay.

Curexo Technology Corp is moving to Fremont from Sacramento. Crown Worldwide Moving & Storage has bought a new building for its headquarters in San Leandro and has just sealed a deal to lease a big warehouse in Union City. And Fresenius Medical Care has leased a

warehouse in Pittsburg.

About 30 Curexo employees are expected to work at the company's new head offices in Fremont, said Sheila Shah, marketing communications manager for the firm.

Curexo makes a Robodoc Surgical System that includes software, imaging equipment and robots for use in hip and knee replacement surgery.

"The size of the new facility will allow Curexo to fully embark on its U.S. launch and worldwide marketing

strategy," said Brent Mittelstadt, chief executive officer of Curexo Technology.

The company's robot, which uses computer commands to precisely mill implants for hip and knee replacements, has been used in more than 24,000 surgical procedures worldwide.

"The United States has the largest market in the world for medical devices," Shah said. "So we have to gear up for that."

Crown Worldwide wants to gear up to meet growing demand for its moving and forwarding services.

See EXPANSION, Page 2



ANITA CHUMEDIANEWS STAFF

**SURGICAL ROBOT BUSINESS** Curexo is moving to Fremont from Sacramento and is bringing 30 jobs to the East Bay with the possibility of more to come.

## Expansion

FROM PAGE 1

"Our business is doing very well, particularly our international business," said Rick Hosea, Crown Moving's president. "We are extremely diversified in terms of the services we provide."

Plus, during a time when companies are downsizing, moving services are still needed.

"If they expand, relocate, reduce operations, they need these services," Hosea said. "Even with a close out, they need movers."

Crown recently bought a 35,000-square-foot building in San Leandro for \$1.6 million, according to commercial realty brokers with Colliers International and The Sutherland Co. The building will contain Crown's headquarters, sales, and accounting staff.

"These could be good times for companies to expand if the opportunity presents itself, the brokers said.

"It was much better for Crown to buy rather than rent in this case," said Dan Bergen, a Colliers broker. Steep price reductions for some commercial properties are giving owner-users "a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to buy buildings at low prices" in the Bay Area, Bergen said.

The company also agreed to lease a 100,000-square-foot warehouse and distribution building in Union City for its moving and forwarding operations, Hosea said.

"We are hiring selectively," Hosea said. "We have not had to lay off one person because of the economic downturn."

Crown will be in both of its new facilities by early May.

Fresenius Medical leased a 60,000-square-foot warehouse in Pittsburg in a deal handled by Colliers and NAI BT Commercial. The company expects to move about 35 workers there this spring.

"They just ran out of space in their existing warehouse operations," said Jeffrey Weil, a Colliers broker. "They wanted to be under one roof."

Fresenius will continue its manufacturing and research operations for kidney dialysis machines at its existing Walnut Creek complex, said Mark Lowery, operations manager for the company locally.

Like Crown Moving, it appears that Fresenius was able to benefit from favorable economics as a user of commercial buildings whose values have slumped.

"The economics in Pittsburg are among the best in the area," said Eric Rehn, a broker with NAI BT Commercial. "The city was very helpful in making this happen."

Local officials were happy to embrace the new corporate arrivals.

"These are good paying jobs that will be coming to Pittsburg," said Brad Nail, the city's economic development director. He said it's possible that Fresenius could expand further.

"We're really excited that Curexo is choosing Fremont," said Lori Taylor, a city economic development official.

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