

Caterpillar Consolidating

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Leases more space in Cary

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Caterpillar is giving its Cary employees more elbow room.

The world's largest maker of earthmoving equipment said Thursday that it has leased an additional 29,701 square feet of office space, as it consolidates some of its administrative staff from its Clayton and Sanford locations into its Cary office.

"Basically, we are just trying to organize our internal space where employees are situated to better work to meet our goals, as opposed to having people scat-

tered all around," said spokeswoman Therese Wojnarowski.

Currently, the Peoria, Ill.-based company has 200 full-time and contract workers in a 56,000 square-foot office at 100 Regency Forest Drive in Cary. Wojnarowski did not say how many people will move to Cary.

The employees work on human resources, accounting, marketing and information technology for Caterpillar's Building Construction Products division, which has facilities in Clayton and Sanford, as well as England, Japan, France and China. The division makes several construction products, such as different types of loaders.

Next month, some of those employees will move to the fourth floor of 400 Regency Forest Drive,

Wojnarowski said.

Demand for Caterpillar's earthmoving equipment is increasing in overseas markets such as China, Africa and Indonesia, according to its recent financial statements.

Despite the slowdown in U.S. housing construction, the company reported last week that its first-quarter sales climbed nearly 7 percent to \$10 billion. The company also raised its forecast for full-year sales and profit.

The company also employs 850 full-time and contract workers in Clayton and 620 in Sanford.

Caterpillar's shares fell 23 cents Thursday to close at \$73.

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