



PRESS RELEASE

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FOOD SERVICE DISTRIBUTION LEADER, BEN E. KEITH COMPANY, TO CONSTRUCT \$50 MILLION DISTRIBUTION CENTER IN MISSOURI CITY

MISSOURI CITY, Texas (November 6, 2007) - Missouri City will be the site of a new 400,000 sf food distribution facility to be constructed by Ben. E. Keith Company announced the City of Missouri City and the Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Council. The \$50 million food distribution center will be situated on approximately 82 acres in the Beltway Crossing Business Park at U.S. 90A and Beltway 8. The project will create over 300 new jobs in Missouri City, and the company will be the largest, private employer in Missouri City as well as the city's largest taxpayer. The facility's growth plans indicate future expansion of over 100,000 square feet.

"Missouri City's location on the southwest side of Houston and its proximity to the area's major arteries, including US 59, the Sam Houston Parkway, and the I-10 corridor align perfectly with Ben E. Keith's plans to better serve the Greater Houston Area, the Gulf Coast Region, and Southern Louisiana," stated Ben E. Keith Foods president, Mike Roach. Because of the similarities in size between the Houston Metropolitan Statistical Area and the DFW Metroplex, Roach anticipates

employing more than 400 employees at the Missouri City location within a few years and eventually over 900 employees like Ben E. Keith's well established DFW Division.

Bob Graf, Economic Development Coordinator for Missouri City proclaimed that "Ben E. Keith's decision confirms that Missouri City has boldly entered into a new age of being rediscovered by business and industry in the Greater Houston region. The facility will be the cornerstone of the newest commercial/industrial crossroads in the region, Beltway Crossing, as well as serve as a very prominent and highly visible business gateway into the northern sector of Missouri City."

The start of construction for the distribution center is scheduled to begin in July 2008. Both Missouri City and Fort Bend County each approved a tax abatement for the new facility. Fort Bend WCID #2 is scheduled to consider the same type of action next week on November 14.

"Ben E. Keith Company recognizes the value in locating its Houston Region operations to Fort Bend County," said Barkley Peschel, Vice President of Development for the Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Council. "They understand that Fort Bend's quality of life and quality of growth is unsurpassed for both people and companies. Once again, a very significant business relocation echoes the call, 'Fort Bend County, Greater Houston's Finest Address.'"

The ninth largest, full-line foodservice distributor in the U.S., Ben E. Keith has been a leader in the foodservice distribution industry since 1906. The company currently serves its more than 14,000 restaurant and other dining locations through a network of six distribution centers. The new facility in Missouri City will serve the Greater Houston and Gulf Coast areas and southern Louisiana.

Jude Filippone of Transwestern represented Ben E. Keith in this latest commercial transaction. Representing the ownership team were Ted Miller and Cory Miner of BC Business Park L.P. Governor Perry's Office of Economic Development and the Greater Houston Partnership also assisted with the project.

For more information on the Ben E. Keith Company, please visit www.benekeith.com.

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