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West Chester gets GE office

Aircraft-engine maker to combine 1,400 jobs in \$55M project

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WEST CHESTER TWP. - GE Aviation has chosen West Chester over rivals Springdale, Evendale and Erlanger for its \$55 million consolidation project, bringing 1,100 high-paying engineering jobs - and 1,400 jobs total - to the area.

Township officials said Tuesday that they plan to create a special taxing district that could boost the township's annual revenues by \$1 million.

Trustees said GE will become one of the suburb's largest employers and help ease the township's reliance on residents' tax dollars.

The consolidation will involve 1,130 employees from two existing Springdale operations and 270 from the West Chester office into one campus. Two buildings will occupy more than 403,000 square feet on the old Queen City Sports Complex site, east of Interstate 75 and Union Centre Boulevard.

Eventually, the development will grow to a four-building office complex in more than 800,000 square feet.

Employees at the complex, who will make an average of \$100,000 and have a combined payroll of \$140 million, are expected to dramatically boost township funds when a taxing district is implemented.

Several communities, including Springdale, Evendale and Erlanger, had been courting the project.

But it appears that West Chester offered the sweetest deal. The announcement, made at Tuesday's township trustees meeting, came after the public was given the first glimpse of how the township secured the agreement with GE, which produces jet engines.

GE will receive a 100 percent property tax abatement for up to 15 years - or until the land lease ends with developer Duke Realty. The abatement will save the company about \$200,000 a year, the township estimates.

In return, the township will establish a joint economic development district that will impose a 1 percent income tax on employees.

[Source: cincinnati.com](http://cincinnati.com)