

UPS cargo expansion at Eastern Iowa Airport to bring more jobs, cargo to the corridor

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (KWWL) — The Eastern Iowa Airport along with UPS had a big announcement today that could bring more jobs to Cedar Rapids.

It's a \$10.2 million cargo facility expansion that will more than quadruple the UPS operation at the airport.

Currently, CID handles just under 50% of air cargo for all of Iowa. Now, UPS's operation is moving out of the airport's main building into their own state of the art facility to continue growing.

"We're going to put a 40,000 square foot facility right behind me over there where you're seeing construction right now," said Stephanie Dexter, UPS's director of the Northern Plains District, "Currently, we're across the ramp but where you're standing we will be bringing in aircraft."

The sorting plant, expected to be open in the spring of 2021, will increase the volume of packages coming through Eastern Iowa.

The Eastern Iowa Airport and UPS announced a 40,000 square foot expansion that's currently in progress. This is going to bring more jobs to the area & solidify CID as a transportation hub. UPS says this is due to the growth in E-Commerce. Details tonight at 5 & 6 pm.



“A lot of people like to refer to Amazon but I’ve got to tell you, some of my biggest customers are health care customers,” said Dexter.

With more cargo planes coming and going, UPS’s current 60 employees at CID could double. While the number isn’t firm, Dexter said, “Typically it’s two shifts, a.m. and p.m. and turning an aircraft tends to be 50 to 60 [employees], also the sortation facility, so don’t quote me on the numbers but it’s bound to grow from there.”

With two industrial mega parks recently open for commercial development in the area. Cedar Rapids and airport leaders hope the cargo expansion will make the city more attractive for future business.

“Really the air service and cargo infrastructure is a building block for all of our partnerships that I’ve mentioned, to go out and strengthen our recruitment efforts to try to fill those industrial parks up,” said Martin Lenss, Director of the Eastern Iowa Airport, “to create more jobs and vibrancy in this immediate area and serve it as a transportation, logistics hub sort of way with the air cargo center, direct access to highway 100, 30, access to the interstate and 380. A quarter of a mile away you’re at the airfield.

The Eastern Iowa Airport is finishing up a terminal upgrade and expansion. Lenss says with UPS moving into its own facility on the west side of the property, it will free up more space for the airport to continue to grow.

No taxpayer money was used to pay for the expansion according to Lenss. About 60% of the funds come directly from the Airport Commission.

UPS also announced today, they're hiring 100,000 for its peak season with 300 of those jobs here locally.

