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Coke to open distribution site

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Coca-Cola Enterprises Bottling Co. of Arizona will unveil a 120,000-square-foot distribution center in Glendale today that eventually will employ 130 people.

Jobs will range from truck drivers to sales, merchandising and other administrative positions.

"That's a big number to me," said Karen Thoreson, the city's economic development director. "It's 130 more people who live in Glendale who will have a five-minute drive to work."

The candy-cane-striped facility sits on 13 acres at Glen Harbor Business Park, near Glendale Avenue and Loop 101 and north of Glendale Municipal Airport. It opens at a time when Coca-Cola's manufacturing, bottling and distribution center in Tempe is struggling to keep up with the Valley's growth.

The Glendale center will serve all West Valley businesses north of Interstate 10 and west of Interstate 17. It's only a couple of miles from University of Phoenix Stadium and Jobing.com Arena.

"We are very excited to be able to expand our operations into an area of the state that is presently seeing so much growth," Tammy Lambros, the company's Arizona vice president, said in a statement.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony is set for 10 a.m. Wednesday at the distribution center, at 7845 N. 106th Ave.

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