

# THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

## Conair has plans for 350 Glendale jobs

Consumer-products manufacturer will open return center

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by *Carrie Watters* - Nov. 13, 2009 07:44 PM  
*The Arizona Republic*

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Consumer-products manufacturer Conair Corp. will add 150 jobs in the coming year in Glendale, with plans to eventually expand to 350 jobs.

Best known as the maker of curling irons and hair dryers, New Jersey-based Conair plans to open a national return center, sorting and re-tooling returned merchandise.

Conair this month purchased a 619,000-square-foot industrial building in the Glendale Airpark. The airpark is near Glendale Municipal Airport and west of the city's sports and entertainment district.

The \$17.4 million sale of the property, to Conair from HBG Arizona LLC is the Valley's largest building transaction in the past 12 months, according to Bo Mills, executive director at Cushman & Wakefield, a broker on the deal.

The property had been vacated by bankrupt KB Toys, which had used it as a distribution center. HBG Arizona had owned this KB Toys distribution center and two others, Mills said.

Mill described the sale as "a ray of sunshine in a very cloudy world."

Along with absorbing a large piece of real estate, the expansion brings jobs.

Those will include clerical and data entry, warehouse work, and re-manufacturing.

Steve Alley, Conair's director of western operations, couldn't peg salary ranges. He said the company isn't to the point of accepting applications.

The company should begin operations in January and expand to 150 employees by the end of the year.

"We certainly will be hiring in 2010," Alley said.

The timeline for full expansion to 350 employees is still unknown.

The company already employs about 150 people at the Glendale Airpark, where it opened a distribution center in 1990.

"This building was the perfect fit for us. It's essentially adjacent to the current building," Alley said.

Glendale calculates the expansion, which nearly doubles the company's presence in the city, will add \$4.3 million to city tax coffers over the next 10 years.

And it takes a large vacant building off the market.

The sale price represents \$28 per square-foot. A couple of years ago, it likely would have sold closer to \$40 per square foot, Mills said.

The building, at 7811 N. Glen Harbor Blvd., was on the market for about a year.

<http://www.azcentral.com/business/articles/2009/11/13/20091113biz-conair1115.html>