

NetJets' expansion rising out of Port Columbus ground

Business First - by Adrian Burns

Date: Friday, March 25, 2011, 9:32am EDT

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NetJets Inc.'s new headquarters building at Port Columbus International Airport is going up east of its existing airport operation and is expected to cost \$21 million.

Company executives and public officials are still more than a week away from ground breaking ceremonies, but NetJets Inc.'s headquarters building at Port Columbus International Airport is under way.

Work at the building's site began in January and has progressed to the construction of the metal framing of what is expected to be a four-story, 140,000-square-foot office building clearly visible from nearby Interstate 670.

"They're making very good progress," said Robin Holderman, vice president of real estate for the Columbus Regional Airport Authority, which runs the area's major airports.

The office building isn't expected to be as elaborate as the one in the fractional jet company's initial expansion plan, but it will make a statement, said Holderman, who has seen renderings for the structure. NetJets has not made renderings public ahead of its ground breaking event scheduled for April 5.

"It's not the wing-shaped, all-glass, supersonic building they had designed before; it was much more grandiose," he said. "I think this is much more befitting of their new direction and what they're doing business wise."

NetJets, a subsidiary of Warren Buffett-led Berkshire Hathaway Inc. (NYSE:BRK), last year scrapped plans for a larger Columbus expansion because the company lost money during the recession.

The building is going up east of NetJets' existing airport operation and is expected to cost \$21 million, Holderman said. Plans call for a second-floor walkway connecting the two buildings, he said.

The building is expected to be completed by mid 2012.



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