

NEWS

WESTON GETS A SWEET DEAL

By SUSAN BROWN Special to the Sun-Sentinel
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Hershey Foods Corp. announced on Monday that it is relocating its international division from Hershey, Pa., to South Florida.

The Fortune 200 company — best known for its chocolate kisses and candy bars — has signed a lease for 20,000 square feet of space in the Weston Corporate Centre Phase II at Arvida Parkway and Weston Road.

Representatives of Hershey said the company plans to relocate 23 employees to Weston. They also expect the division to grow to between 60 and 80 positions over time.

"They will mostly be sales, marketing and finance positions with administrative help," said Ronald E. Stohler, director of corporate facilities management.

Stohler added the company now has a four-person office in Coral Springs that is mainly doing business in Latin America and will be incorporated into the Weston facility. "Our intention is to substantially expand the international division," he said.

Hershey hopes to move into temporary space in April while the new facility is built.



The 85,000-square-foot, four-story building is under construction and will be completed by November, said developer Craig B. Weiner. Hershey has agreed to

completed by November, said developer Craig K. Weiner. Hershey has agreed to occupy the entire fourth floor.

Last year Weiner developed the first phase of the Weston Corporate Centre, a 75,000-square-foot building at the corner of Arvida Parkway and Weston Road that is completely leased.

The second phase will be a slightly larger building mirroring the first. Although there are a handful of prime, or Class A, office buildings under construction in Broward County, Hershey said it chose Weston because of the building and its location.

Earlier this year, the Weston Corporate Centre's first phase received a design award from the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties.

"This was the nicest building we found after looking at seven or eight throughout the area," Stohler said, adding that the food company _ which had \$4.3 billion in annual sales for 1997 _ is making a commitment to the area by signing a 10-year lease.

Stohler said Hershey is dedicated to worldwide growth. Last year, the company hired Patrice LeMaire, a former Proctor & Gamble executive, to head the international division.

Hershey trades on the the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol HSY. Its stock reached a 52-week-high on Monday, gaining \$1.25 to close at \$66.68.

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