

PNC Plaza's Galleria annex lands office outsourcer Regus - Columbus - Business First

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The Regus network of executive office suites has opened in the Galleria building on Capitol Square, filling up that annex to the PNC Plaza at 155 E. Broad St.

Regus opened its doors Feb. 4 in 15,000 square feet – the entire second floor of the 40,280-square-foot Galleria. The company rents office suites and shared office services. It also offers space at the Easton, Crosswoods Center and MetroCenter office parks.

Agent Bill Whipple of CBRE Group Inc. represented Regus in the leasing deal.

Regus' opening follows the fourth-quarter consolidation and expansion of the Ohio Hospital Association trade group into 32,816 square feet on the third floor of the Galleria and in the PNC high-rise.

"So now the entire Galleria is filled," said Matt Gregory, the NAI Ohio Equities LLC agent who markets the PNC space with Andy Dutcher.

Gregory said the location across the street from the Ohio Statehouse makes it attractive to lobbyists, lawyers and others who do business with state agencies.

He said a few other downtown office owner-occupants rent surplus office space to those looking for an office or two.

CBRE downtown office specialist Greg Thomas said branded office suite tenants had occupied space at 100 E. Broad and 65 E. State streets over the years.

"Certainly in the last five years there haven't been any available," he said.

Thomas said Regus' arrival shows a growing interest among small tenants in returning to downtown.

"That's a strong indicator of the incubator tenants' interest," he said, "and a reflection of the uptick in the (central business district)."

Gregory said about one-third of the PNC complex is empty. The office tower had fallen to less than half vacant after PNC downsized its space and the Deloitte LLP accounting and consulting firm moved to the Continental Plaza at 180 E. Broad St.

Brian R. Ball covers commercial real estate and development for Columbus Business First.

