

Phoenix Business Journal

January 20, 2010

Cox Communications plans \$70M data center in north Phoenix

Jan 20, 2010, 1:10pm MST Updated Jan 20, 2010, 1:10pm MST

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Cox Communications Inc. is planning \$70 million-plus data center near its Arizona headquarters in north Phoenix, which will be its second such facility in the area.

The stand-alone facility is being built near 19th Avenue and Deer Valley Road to house computers supporting Cox's future growth and services, officials said.

Ground breaking on the project, due for completion in early 2011, was scheduled Wednesday. The 108,000-square-foot center will have about 50 employees, who will be hired at a later date.

"We are excited that our parent company, Cox Enterprises, is making another economic investment in Arizona, in the Phoenix metro area," said Steve Rizley, senior vice president and general manager of Cox Communications Arizona. "Not only will this give an injection of investment in the Deer Valley community, but will also help strengthen Cox Communications' services with enhanced security and reliability."

Holder Construction Co. of Atlanta, which also has offices in Phoenix, is general contractor on the project.

Cox has spent millions upgrading its network in the Phoenix area for residential use and recently has been pushing its business services more aggressively. The company has debuted features for customers from voice mail and on-demand programming to memory-intensive online backup storage.