

# Michigan company to create up to 120 jobs in Windsor

BY DAVE BATTAGELLO, THE WINDSOR STAR JANUARY 22, 2009



Local leaders pointed to the decision Wednesday by small Michigan software company Wizie to locate in Windsor as another step toward economic diversification.

“We are shifting the focus to what this region has to offer,” said Mayor Eddie Francis. “We have a skilled workforce here and that message is starting to get out.”

There will initially be 15 new jobs available when Wizie opens its new research and development centre on the second floor of the Windsor Airport on April 1, said Trideep Aggarwal, president and CEO of Wizie.

About two-thirds of the jobs will be related to research and development or programming with support staff to be added if the company is able to follow through on its intent to grow in Windsor — and possibly reach 120 jobs, he said.

The company will pay \$11 to \$15 per hour to start, with higher salaries to those with more skilled qualifications. It will stay located at the airport for at least the next two years.

Wizie started a search six months ago for a new location of its planned information technology and research and development centre that included locales in Turkey, Ukraine and Australia.

“One city provided everything we were looking for and that was Windsor,” Aggarwal said.

Proximity to Wizie’s corporate headquarters in Farmington Hills was a primary factor.

No government grants are being provided to the company.

Aggarwal would not provide revenues for the private company other than to say it was “in the seven figures.” Wizie has about 150 employees worldwide with other locations in Halifax and India.

Warden Nelson Santos was grateful to Wizie for its decision to come to this region.

“It shows Windsor-Essex is open for business and it’s another example of what we can achieve when we all work together,” he said.

Santos was among those who attended the Wizie announcement at the Hilton Hotel who credited the WindsorEssex Development Commission for laying the groundwork and securing the deal to bring the company to Windsor.

“It takes some time to fill a pipeline,” said Remo Mancini, board chairman of the development commission. “That’s what we are trying to do.”

Wizie lends software and call centre support to the travel industry including airlines, hotels and car rentals by providing fare data, ticketing services and reservations.

The company has been in operation since 1999 with over 1,000 customers that include airlines across North America, Europe, Australia and Asia, according to its website.

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