

Ameris Bank to create new center in Buckhead that could employ hundreds

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Ameris Bancorp will create a financial center in Buckhead, as it bolsters both its brand and recruiting in Atlanta.

Jacksonville based Ameris (Nasdaq: ABCB) a well-known regional bank across south Georgia and northern Florida, made a bold entrance into the competitive Atlanta market this year when it paid \$870 million to buy Fidelity Southern Corp.



Securities Centre

That deal closed in July.

Ameris Bancorp executives told Wall Street analysts earlier this year the company intends to strengthen its image and ramp-up recruiting in Atlanta. It should have an opportunity to do that in Buckhead, one of the city's most affluent neighborhoods and home to several global real estate and financial companies.

Ameris is consolidating its Atlanta offices into Buckhead's Securities Centre, where it will lease multiple floors and grow to at least 300 employees.

The development will be renamed Ameris Center.

The office project dates back to the 1980s, but it now stands along a changing section of Piedmont Road where construction on hundreds of apartments and planned stores and restaurants is underway.

Two nearby office buildings have been redesigned into hubs for startups.

The PATH400 Greenway is also slowly turning Piedmont into a more walkable corridor.

Ameris Center will be a two-building complex, the bank says.

It will continue occupying four floors in Building One, which has been the home of the Atlanta Fidelity office. Ameris will also lease an additional 60,000 square feet in Building Two.

It is consolidating an existing office along Interstate 85 into Buckhead. That's expected by the end of the year.

"Ameris Center will be customized with state-of-the-art technology, conference and collaboration rooms, as well as learning and development facilities," the bank said in a statement. "Office space in Building One will be renovated to house an expanded lending and wealth management team and their executive offices."

The bank will occupy just over 111,000 square feet in Ameris Center. The build-out could finish in 2021.

Ameris was represented in lease negotiations by Shea Meddin and John O'Neill with [Cushman & Wakefield](#).

The landlord was represented by Ameris Center ownership, Atlanta Property Group, including Austin Chase, Jonathan Rodbell and Court Thomas.

Jacksonville-based Ameris Bancorp completed its acquisition of Fidelity Southern earlier this month. A former CEO of [Fidelity Bank](#) has now been named [chief executive](#) of Ameris Bancorp and [Ameris Bank](#).

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