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Dallas 'inland port' opening set for April 13

A facility being billed as North America's newest "inland port" — designed to become a key element for moving NAFTA trade goods — is slated to post its "open for business" sign this week.

Commercial properties developer The Allen Group will host a grand opening ceremony for the Dallas Logistics Hub from 10 a.m. to noon Friday, April 13 at the Lancaster Municipal Airport at 730 Ferris Road in Lancaster, Texas.

The "Hub," according to The Allen Group's news release for the event, is the largest new logistics park under development in North America, with 6,000 acres master-planned for the development of 60 million square feet of distribution, manufacturing, office and retail uses. The Hub also has the potential to be the first logistics park with two intermodal facilities serviced by the two largest freight carriers in the United States. Union Pacific Railroad currently operates a 360,000 lift per year intermodal terminal adjacent to the Hub, with BNSF Railway Company evaluating a potential site on the western side of the project, The Allen Group reported.

The Hub's intermodal, rail and highway access (including four major highway connectors: I-20, I-45, I-35 Loop 9/Trans-Texas Corridor) are meant to position southern Dallas County as the premier trade hub in the Southwest, and will serve as the gateway for the distribution of goods to the major population centers throughout the Central and Eastern regions of the U.S.

Slated to become one of the biggest economic engines for North Texas, the Dallas Logistics Hub, at full build-out, will create approximately 31,000 direct and 32,000 indirect jobs and increase the tax base for the communities of Dallas, Lancaster, Wilmer and Hutchins by \$2.4 billion, say project backers.

The Allen Group will also announce construction plans on initial vertical developments at the Dallas Hub during the event. More information on the Dallas Logistics Hub and the event is available on the Web at www.dallashub.com.