

Logistics company expanding

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HASLET -- A logistics company that helps companies move merchandise -- from jewelry boxes to ceiling fans -- worldwide plans to expand its rail and trucking operations at the Alliance business park with a 140,000-square-foot warehouse.

KFS Inc. bought 10 acres at the southwest corner of Intermodal Parkway and Tradewind Drive for a distribution facility, said Jim Keller, president of the Grapevine-based company.

It will keep its Grapevine operation at Dallas/Fort Worth Airport for air-cargo services. The rail and trucking business is growing with the growth in Asian imports, he said.

"We're growing at 20 percent a year," Keller said. "We just ran out of room at D/FW."

The expansion triples its warehouse space for trucking and rail business, Keller said. The move could create 10 to 30 jobs, he said.

The company's site puts it in a foreign trade zone, said Tony Creme at Hillwood Properties, developer of Alliance. It's also near Interstate 35W and a mile from a high-tech intermodal rail yard, Creme said. A rail yard is key to bringing imports inland from seaports.

Construction is slated to begin in October and be completed by April, Keller said.

The warehouse will allow KFS to address the demand for brokering truck transportation, increasing the number of just-in-time deliveries and reconfiguring cargo loads onto pallets to retailers' specifications, he said.

KFS has been adapting to changes in customer demand since its start in 1989. The company, which started arranging air freight, later expanded to handle cargo by rail, ocean and truck.

Rick Hughes and Noel Hutcheson of Cushman & Wakefield of Texas represented KFS.

Haslet Mayor Gary Hulsey said the city offered no incentives to the company for the expansion. The city has seen a growth in logistics and transportation companies in recent months.