

Facebook moving in, seeking friends with operations skills

Social networking site posts jobs, hopes to open Austin office in May

By [Kirk Ladendorf](#)

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

Friday, March 12, 2010

Facebook Inc. is moving fast in Austin.

The leader in online social networking formally confirmed its arrival in Austin on Friday and said it hopes to lease office space, hire a staff and start work on its online sales and operations center by early May.

The fast-growing company, which has more than 400 million members worldwide, had a dozen job openings posted on its Web site by early afternoon. Openings include jobs for an account management analyst for online sales, agency account manager, user operations analyst, fraud analyst, fraud investigator, inside sales account executive, inside sales manager and manger of user operations.

Facebook has told the city that it will create at least 200 jobs in Austin with an average pay of more than \$54,000 a year.

At a welcoming party Friday at City Hall, both city politicians and company officials called Facebook a good fit for Austin and vice versa.

"We move very quickly. We looked at a number of cities and we are excited to have landed in Austin," said Sarah Smith, the company's head of online operations, who will move to Austin.

"The deep talent pool is very attractive for us. It has a strong history of innovation, a healthy business environment and a thriving economy."

On Thursday, the City Council approved \$200,000 in cash incentives for the company spread over 10 years. The state committed to give the company a \$1.4 million grant from the Texas Enterprise Fund.

Austin will be Facebook's first online operations center in the U.S. outside its home base in Palo Alto, Calif.

Facebook wanted a presence in the Central time zone to give it more coverage in working online to help users, advertisers and technology partners.

Hanger Orthopedic Group, which won city incentives last month, also has started to hire for its new Austin headquarters.

The company, which is moving from Bethesda, Md., has posted positions including executive, accounting and technology jobs.

Hanger said it will have 150 jobs in Austin, and will move into office space at the Domain this year.

Austin also is courting Yingli Green Energy Americas Inc., a Chinese-owned solar panel manufacturer. The company is expected to decide by Monday whether the plant will be in Austin or Phoenix.

The City Council agreed to offer Yingli tax breaks worth more than \$354,000, but the company was awaiting a formal incentives proposal from the Texas Enterprise Fund on Friday.

Because Phoenix and Arizona have made the company a reported \$3.8 million incentives offer, the outcome of its negotiations with the State of Texas could have a major bearing on where it locates.

Courtesy of JB Goodwin