

Forget 2007, IKEA says it will be ready for holiday shoppers

Austin Business Journal - 1:00 PM CDT Thursday

IKEA has slated a Nov. 15 opening for its new Round Rock store.

Construction on the much-anticipated 252,000-square-foot store at University Boulevard and I-35 is moving along at a brisk pace, allowing the retailer to open shop in time for the holiday shopping season. IKEA had initially said the store would not open until spring 2007.

"Due to the significant progress made during spring and so far this summer, we are confident the remaining milestones and interior build-up process will be complete by mid-November," says Jeff O'Shaughnessy, store manager of the future IKEA. "Now our primary objective is to continue hiring and training the nearly 300 Central Texans who will be joining the IKEA coworker family before we open."

The Round Rock store is IKEA's third in the state following locations in Frisco, north of Dallas, and another in Houston. The Swedish retail giant has more than 235 stores in 34 countries including 28 in the United States. IKEA has plans for new stores in Brooklyn, New York; Draper, Utah; Dublin, Calif.; Orlando, Fla.; Portland, Ore.; Somerville, Mass.; Sunrise, Fla. and West Chester, Ohio.