



## Toyota supplier plans to expand Michigan staff

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Toyota Boshoku Corp. announced plans Monday to expand its Michigan workforce from 140 to 200 employees by 2010 as business grows for Toyota Motor Corp. and its suppliers in the United States.

Toyota Boshoku, which began operations with an Ann Arbor office in 2001, is an automotive interiors supplier that's part of the Toyota Group, a family of companies that works closely with Toyota. The company purchased a Novi building in January to house its technical center. It employs mostly engineers and professional support staff.

"Continued commitment and investments by companies like Toyota Boshoku are important as we maintain our efforts to diversify our economy and create jobs here in Michigan," Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm said in a news release announcing the expansion.

Toyota Boshoku's expansion comes as Toyota expands its own technical center, which employs about 700 people in Ann Arbor. Toyota expects to add another 400 jobs when a new center opens in 2008 in nearby York Township.

The expansion of the Toyota Technical Center involves not just adding employees but also capabilities, said Hiro Mori, an analyst with the Automotive Consulting Group in Ann Arbor. More development is being shifted from Japan to the United States, he said.

Many Toyota suppliers, such as Toyota Boshoku, are looking to increase their talent pool to work with the Toyota Technical Center staff, Mori said.

"When you're doing more in development, it's nice to have supplier support close by," he said.

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