

Funimation moving headquarters to Flower Mound

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Bursting at the seams in North Richland Hills, Funimation Entertainment is moving to the wide-open prairie of Flower Mound.

The company will almost double its space, from 25,000 square feet in a building shared with other tenants to 48,500 square feet in a stand-alone building, said spokeswoman Jackie Smith. The company employs 150 at its headquarters.

"We could use the space," she said. "We're a little cramped."

The company, which says it is the market-share leader in the anime industry, needs the room because of its growth in the past few years. Funimation is likely best known as the U.S. distributor of the popular Japanese cartoon series Dragon Ball Z. The company has also been adding titles featuring skateboarder Tony Hawk.

And it recently started the Funimation Channel, which is available locally on Verizon's FiOS and the Dish Network.

The company was acquired in May 2005 by Navarre Corp., a publicly traded company based in Minnesota.

Sales at Funimation grew 47 percent in 2006, according to Navarre's latest quarterly earnings, released Monday.

Funimation's new building is being put up by Champion Partners. The developer received a five-year, 70 percent tax rebate on real and personal property from Flower Mound, said Melissa Glasgow, director of the town's economic development department.

Construction is expected to be done by October. In the meantime, Smith said, employees are being asked to help design the building's interior.

"It's brand new," she said. "That's going to be the fun part. Physically moving is not going to be the fun part."

Online: www.funimation.com

This report includes material from the *Star-Telegram* archives.

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