



September 8, 2009

Clearwire tops 400 Santa Rosa jobs

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The Clearwire company, a provider of wireless Internet service, has surpassed the 400 jobs it promised when its service center opened in East Milton in 2007, company representative Danny Kruse told the Santa Rosa County Commission this morning.

The company stands at 484 employees and is looking to expand. The starting wage for most of those jobs is about \$12 per hour.

"We're continuing to grow. We're bursting at the seams," Kruse said. "We're looking at the possibility of either expanding in this area or other areas."

Clearwire has room within its East Milton building to expand, with renovation, he said. It also has an option to purchase an adjoining building.

The East Milton facility handles incoming service calls from Clearwire's 120 million customers. It offers wireless Internet service in many areas in Texas, as well as other major markets like Atlanta and Portland, Ore. It plans expansion soon into Chicago, Philadelphia, Seattle and Honolulu.

Clearwire currently has no plans to offer wireless Internet service in the Pensacola area.
