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Z9 FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2010

SkySong enjoying fine success as technological hub

Three years ago, officials from Turkish education-software company Sebit came to Scottsdale to learn more about SkySong, the Arizona State University Scottsdale

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Innovation Center, and ASU's vision for the project's future.

The company was only beginning to look at doing business in America, but after talking with ASU President Michael Crow and seeing what ASU SkySong's assistance could do for its company, Sebit's Adaptive Curriculum division opened an office within ASU SkySong for its two employees.

Fast forward to a few months ago. After ASU SkySong's commitment to innovation and technology helped the company expand its presence

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in the U.S. marketplace, Sebit leased office space for its now 50 employees in Scottsdale, becoming one of SkySong's largest tenants.

ASU SkySong's ability to lend the expertise of one of America's premier research universities, ASU's valuable resources of students and graduates, and the project's focus on technology and innovation made it possible for Adaptive Curriculum to enjoy such growth.

It's a remarkable success story, and it shows not only what SkySong is delivering for Scottsdale and the Valley of the Sun right now, but what it will deliver well into the future.

Despite a dire economic downturn — timed almost exactly with SkySong's opening — the project has become a key economic engine for the Valley business community. It is home to more than 50 companies from 10 countries, employing upwards of 700 people.

These companies and their employees have an economic impact on Arizona that is well into the tens of millions of dollars and are helping to position Scottsdale and the Valley as a key hub for innovation and technology.

SkySong's two buildings are now at 82 percent occupancy

— a remarkable achievement in light of the economic conditions — significantly outperforming other new and existing commercial projects. As the economy recovers, the project will continue to grow and expand.

The project is having an impact beyond just attracting new companies and jobs to the area. SkySong is starting to realize its potential as a hub for the East Valley, a place where meetings and conferences take place on the same days that a farmers market is held for the neighborhood.

SkySong's evolution as a neighborhood asset is continuing, with the exciting news that a new restaurant — the City Market Deli — will be opening in the project in the coming months.

The project's iconic shade

structure makes it one of the most recognizable developments in the region, but that's far from the only recognition it has received. SkySong has won several significant awards and designations for its sustainable construction and positive impact on south Scottsdale.

In short, SkySong is a work in progress, and certainly the economy has had an effect on how it has grown since its inception. But the success stories envisioned when the project opened a few years ago are starting to become a reality. That's very good news for Scottsdale, the Valley and Arizona's economy as a whole.

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