

Region adds another HQ with Samick move

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Samick Music Co. is moving its North American headquarters, factory and primary distribution center to Gallatin, a deal that could result in up to 175 local jobs.

Gov. Phil Bredesen and Matt Kisber, state commissioner of Economic and Community Development, announced the deal Thursday.



Samick, which now has its North American headquarters in City Of Industry, Calif., is expected to invest \$5 million in new facilities, including a 14,000-square-foot headquarters and a 200,000-square-foot manufacturing and distribution center in Gallatin Industrial Park. The company also has bought an adjacent tract of land for future expansion.

The company, which makes pianos and guitars, will relocate about 30 employees while hiring an additional 50 to 70 locally. Samick's three-year plan calls for an additional 25 employees to be added each year.

Samick's operations in California have been the distribution point of **Samick Musical Instrument Co.**'s products throughout the

United States and Canada for the past 23 years. The company operates out of a 90,000-square-foot facility in California.

Once the Gallatin operations are up and running, Samick will be the largest producer of pianos in North America, according to a release announcing the move.

The Gallatin Economic Development Agency began working with the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development and regional organizations in November to recruit Samick.

Samick is the second company to recently announce a relocation to Middle Tennessee from Southern California. In November, Nissan North America announced it would begin relocating its headquarters in summer 2006. Samick's parent company, Samick Musical Instrument Co. Ltd., is based in South Korea.

The company will lease temporary office space in Gallatin while its new facility is under construction. Company officials say they expect to take residence and be in production by late 2006 or early 2007.