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Ann Arbor Tortilla Factory's expansion leaves popular chip maker poised for further growth

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Sisters Guadalupe and Andrea Quetglas started the Ann Arbor Tortilla Factory about four years ago and have seen sales take off. Now the business is moving to an 8,000-square-foot facility, which doubles their space.

Janet Miller | For AnnArbor.com

The [Ann Arbor Tortilla Factory](#) will move early next month to a new facility that will finally allow the company to catch up to demand for their popular thick and salty corn chips sold locally and now gaining a national presence.

Growth for Ann Arbor Tortilla has been limited by space, said **Guadalupe Quetglas**, who co-founded the east Ann Arbor company in 2007 with her sister Andrea.

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Sales for the chips — now available in regular, lime, chili lime and garlic — have doubled each year since 2008, and the company has been unable to keep up with demand for much of 2010. The move will also allow the company to expand into new product areas, Quetglas said.

Ann Arbor Tortilla will move its offices and production facility from the **Ellsworth Commerce Park** off Ellsworth Road west of US-23 three miles west to Oxford Commerce Park at [727 W. Ellsworth Road](#), adjacent to the **Ann Arbor Municipal Airport**.

The company signed a five-year lease for the 8,000-square-foot space earlier this month, Quetglas said, and expects to stop production for four days during the move.

Economic development group [Ann Arbor SPARK](#) was instrumental in helping find the new space at the Oxford Commerce Park, Quetglas said. The broker on the deal was Neal Warling of Jones Lang Lasalle.

The facility meets all of the company's criteria: More space, close to the freeways and good access to utilities. The company's current space offers only 4,000 square feet, and there was not access to enough natural gas to run all its equipment, Quetglas said.

The current space also can't accommodate a second industrial-sized kettle needed to cook the corn used to make the tortillas, or new packaging equipment the company will start using. The chips are now packaged manually.

Purchase of a new \$40,000 kettle will be self-financed, Quetglas said, but the company expects to turn

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