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Intel in Your Community Oregon


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1970-1980: Intel and Other Anchor Tenants Arrive from California

Intel introduced the 4004 microprocessor in November 1971, under the modest heading, "Announcing a New Era of Integrated Electronics."

Moore called the product "one of the most revolutionary products in the history of mankind." Though primitive by today's standards, the initial microprocessor, consisting of a mere 2,300 MOS transistors, has since been transformed into the most complex mass-produced product ever.

The original 4004 system performing about 60,000 calculations in a second has evolved to today's Pentium® 4 microprocessor. In August 2001, Intel Corporation introduced the Pentium® 4 processor at 2 gigahertz (GHz) - or two billion cycles per second - crossing a key technology milestone and extending the PC's ability to meet evolving user requirements for today and the future.

At the same time as Intel was developing the 4004, major high-tech firms began to look beyond the borders of California to expand and relocate. Oregon was fortunate to attract several of these key anchor tenants during this time.

Oregon's workforce, abundance of pure water, K-12 education system, quality of life and proximity to the Silicon Valley made it an ideal place to do business.

On Jan. 30, 1974, The Oregonian reported that "a major electronics manufacturer has taken options on a site in Washington County for a plant..." That company was Intel, which had reported sales of \$66 million in 1973.

The Oregonian cited comments by Intel co-founder, Gordon Moore, on why Intel chose Oregon for its expansion.

Firm praises state in relocation effort

The Oregonian, Feb. 1, 1974.

A Californian told a gathering of Portland businessmen Thursday why he is locating his new plant in suburban Washington County. The way he told it, was enough to make a native businessman sorry if he even had strayed out of Oregon on a long weekend vacation.

The Californian is Gordon E. Moore, executive vice president and one of two founders of Intel Corp., a five-year-old company in the San Jose area.

Moore's praise of the state and the area was unstinting.

"Oregon is one of the few places we've found where people still take pride in their work. This state has a stable, well-trained labor force. As a growing company, we have to be assured of a supply of energy. We couldn't get that assurance in the Bay area, but we got it here.



Oregon's Aloha campus

A welcome to the state given by Secretary of State Clay Myers bore the tone of a return salute. "This is a high-growth and labor intensive kind of industry that is good for the state," Myers said. "Intel will provide many jobs (400 in the first year and 1,600 with full development) with a maximum of energy conservation. It will be nonpolluting and compatible with the Oregon quality of life."

Intel broke ground at its first Oregon campus in unincorporated Aloha on April 3, 1974.

Intel to build plant in Aloha

Oregon Journal, April 4, 1974

Construction on the \$2 million Intel Corp. electronics plant in Aloha is scheduled to begin next week, company officials said at groundbreaking ceremonies Wednesday.

Intel, which makes minaurized (sic) components for computers, expects the Aloha plant to be in operation by late 1974.

The first phase of building will be brick. Intel plans to employ 400 people. Donald M. Drake Co. is the general contractor.

Local media reported later in the year that completion of Intel Oregon's first campus would be delayed as the market slowed.

Intel halts work on plant

The Oregonian, Aug. 30, 1974

ALOHA - Work on the Intel Corp. plant under construction on S.W. 185th Avenue has been halted, an official said Thursday.

George Schneer, plant manager, indicated that no new completion date has been set for the first building of a four-building plant, initially scheduled for completion this fall.

Schneer said employees who were ticketed to work at Aloha have been temporarily reassigned and the building will remain vacant until it is completed.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held in April on the firm's 20-acre site off the Tualatin Valley Highway at 198th. Intel had planned an initial capital investment of \$3.5 million for land, construction and equipment for the first of four buildings. Plans called for a workforce of 400 by the end of 1975 with a payroll of \$3 million. Most of the employees were to have been hired locally, Schneer said.

Founded in 1968, Intel builds mini-electric components. It employs 2500 persons worldwide and ahs facilities in Santa Clara, Mountain View and Livermore, Calif. As well as in Malaysia.

Intel's first Oregon campus finally opened in Aloha in 1976 with just a few hundred employees. That same year, Hewlett-Packard* opened a facility in Corvallis to produce hand-held calculators. The \$100 million 6-store Washington Square shopping center opened that year, too. The Oregonian reported that special events marked nine days of celebrations, culminating in a Grand Opening ceremony at the L-shaped covered pedestrian mall built around six sunken garden courts at the 87-acre center.

About 9 months after Intel started up Fab 4, Intel decided to invest in a new microprocessor technology group to be located in Oregon and headed up by Bill Lattin. The initial design team was housed in the Fab 4 facility until suitable office space could be located. After about a month, office space was located about 3 blocks east of the Fab 4 facility on Shaw Rd, a frontage road next to Tualatin Valley Highway. Because it was across from a Dairy Queen, it was nicknamed DQ1.

Intel's presence from that point forward helped position Washington County as the center of Oregon's growing technology industry.

The original 4004 system performing about 60,000 calculations in a second has evolved to today's Pentium® 4 microprocessor. In August 2001, Intel Corporation introduced the Pentium® 4 processor at 2 gigahertz (GHz) - or two billion cycles per second - crossing a key technology milestone and extending the PC's ability to meet evolving user requirements for today and the future. Computer makers worldwide launched systems today at the same time on the new Pentium 4® processor and on other Intel technologies.

"The rapid ramping of technology and industry support for the Pentium® 4 processor reflect the strength of the underlying architecture and the headroom it provides for the demands of new and evolving usage models," said Louis Burns, vice president and general manager, Intel's Desktop Platforms Group. "The combination of Intel processor and platform technologies and industry innovation provides the foundation for the next decade of desktop computing."

Intel has followed a similar path from simplicity to complexity in Oregon, transitioning from a small manufacturing fab in Aloha to a critical part of a worldwide corporation and an immense driver of Oregon's economic engine.

[More about Intel's early history in Oregon.](#)

[More about Hewlett-Packard's history in Oregon.](#)

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