



November 13, 2013

Sur La Table leases bigger office space in Seattle's Georgetown

Marc Stiles

Puget Sound Business Journal

Sur La Table is moving its corporate offices to a new, expanded location in Seattle's Georgetown neighborhood, where it will occupy more than 50,000 square feet of space.

The kitchenware company's new headquarters will have a mock retail store, test kitchen and rooftop deck for growing herbs and vegetables.

Executives said growth is prompting the move to the Sixty 1 Hundred Building, 6100 Fourth Ave. S. That's about a half-mile south of Sur La Table's current 40,000-square-foot headquarters in the Seattle Design Center.

In the past year, Sur La Table said, it has added 621 jobs and opened 15 stores, with plans to open another 18 over the next year. At the same time, its online business has grown by double-digit percentages each of the last five years.

Bahrain-based Investcorp bought Sur La Table two years ago for \$200 million. The Behnke family in Seattle and Freeman Spogli & Co. of Los Angeles retained a stake in the company. At the time, Sur La Table had 86 stores in the United States.

Founded in Pike Place Market in 1972, Sur La Table has more than 115 stores nationwide and 50 cooking class programs.

Sur La Table President and CEO Jack Schwefel said in a prepared statement that the new headquarters will "create an environment in which our employees feel inspired to knead, dice and whisk with abandon with the goal of taking customers to a place they love to be."

Terms of the deal with the Benaroya Co., which owns Sixty 1 Hundred, were not disclosed.