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International logistics firm seeks incentives to move regional HQ to Miami-Dade

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An international logistics firm is seeking public incentives to create 75 high-wage jobs by moving a regional office to Miami-Dade County.

The county commission will consider the job growth incentive package for confidential company "Project Meridian" on Nov. 1. Details in the application make it likely that the applicant is DB Schenker, a German logistics company that is one of the world's largest movers of goods.

The **Beacon Council**, which helped the company file the Qualified Target Industry (QTI) application, declined comment.

Project Meridian would move its Americas and Caribbean regional hemisphere headquarters from Freeport, New York to an undisclosed location in Miami-Dade, where it would expand its current space by 8,200 square feet and invest \$759,000 in tenant buildout. In addition to retaining its five employees here, the company would create 75 jobs with an average salary of \$90,000.

Should Project Meridian meet those goals, it would receive \$525,000 from the QTI program over six years. That would include \$105,000 from the county and the rest from the state.

However, the application notes that the company is also considering three cities in Texas: Dallas, Irving and Coppell, plus Atlanta, for the Americas and Caribbean regional hemisphere headquarters. Miami-Dade has an edge in its connection to multiple continents, but Texas has a lower cost of living and Texas's incentive programs are very competitive, the application stated.

Project Meridian has 95,000 staff spread over 2,000 locations in 140 countries, according to the application. Offering logistics for air, land and freight, the company became the freight logistics subsidiary of its parent company in December 2007. The company also disclosed that its Russian subsidiary was placed under investigation by authorities over former employees in Russia allegedly making improper payments to Russian authorities to speed up the movement of goods.

All of those descriptions apply in DB Schenker. Its website describes having more than 95,000 employees and 2,000 offices. Its Americas headquarters is in Freeport, New York. It was created in December 2007 when Railion was acquired by Deutsche Bahn. On Oct. 7, DB Schenker announced that it the probe into the conduct of its former employees in Russia was terminated and the company paid an administrative fine.



STEPHEN HILGER | BLOOMBERG

Officials with DB Schenker couldn't immediately be reached for comment about the potential move to Miami. It already has an office in the city at 1801 N.W. 135th Ave.

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