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## Workspace provider expands downtown operation



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Workspace provider Space added about 10,000 square feet at 444 N. Wabash Ave. in a new 10-year lease, founder Phil Tadros said. Tadros—who also owns Bow Truss Coffee Roasters, web design and consulting firm Doejo and the Aquanaut Brewing beer company—**opened Space** about a year ago in the River North building. This is its

second expansion of about 10,000 square feet in the building owned by Northbrook investor **Khaldoun Fakhoury**, Tadros said. New York-based computer programming educator General Assembly is a long-term tenant at Space, which also has individuals and small businesses renting space by the month, Tadros said. “We used to help people launch companies out of our Doejo space (in Lakeview) for years,” Tadros said. “It’s exciting to give people the tools to start companies.”

### Evanston incubator more than triples HQ space

Business incubator 511 Capital signed a 10-year lease for 10,090 square feet in the 20-story Orrington Plaza office tower in Evanston, the firm said. 511 previously leased about 2,900 square feet in the Rotary International Building, 1560 Sherman Ave., and is in temporary space in **Orrington Plaza** until moving into its permanent space in September, founder Russell Potterfield said. The two-year-old firm has 12 employees in its headquarters and 225 in Shenzhen, China, where it manufactures the products its businesses design, and the new space leaves room for significant headquarters growth, Potterfield said. 511 anticipates \$10 million in 2015 revenue, up from about \$4.5 million last year, Potterfield said. 511's businesses include PrintNinja, which prints materials such as comic books, graphic novels and catalogs, and Phitz, which creates unique cases for guitars and other musical instruments. “We took a big space because we anticipate big growth,” Potterfield said. “We didn’t even have a manufacturing facility until 12 months ago.” 511 was represented in the lease by Rich Schulz, president of Chicago-based brokerage J. Rich Co. Orrington Plaza, 1603 Orrington Ave., is owned by a venture of Chicago-based Golub & Co. and New York-based Investcorp.

### Chicago firm quadrupling HQ space, head count

User experience and digital product development consulting firm AKTA will quadruple its headquarters space to 18,000 square feet when it moves to 205 W. Wacker Drive in June, the company said. AKTA, which projects \$10 million in revenue in 2015, plans to grow to 100 employees by the end of this year, from 48 now, said Blair Hickey, a spokeswoman for the company. AKTA signed an eight-year lease to move from 4,500 square feet at 223 W. Erie St. to the 23-story Wacker Drive building owned by Chicago-based Ameritus Real Estate Investment Management. “AKTA has experienced tremendous growth over the last five years and this new headquarters represents the next chapter of our story,” CEO John Roa said in a statement. AKTA also plans to open an office outside in Austin, Texas, the statement said.

*AKTA's square footage at 223 W. Erie has been corrected.*

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