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CCSI joins downtown Vancouver's revitalization

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written by Nicholas Shannon Kulmac

Citing company growth and the desire to become more active in the community, Creative Computer Solutions Inc. (CCSI), a provider of technology services to small and medium-size businesses, has purchased and moved into a new office building in downtown Vancouver.

According to CCSI President & CEO Scott Huotari, the move from NE 39th Street to the corner of Broadway & Mill Plain (202 E Mill Plain Boulevard) was inspired, in part, by a Small Business Administration (SBA) presentation by Jim West of Coldwell Banker Commercial.

"[Jim] had several partners there and they talked about the advantages of SBA loans, the SBA process and the importance of investment properties for retirement," said Huotari. "So I kind of started the process there.

"Additionally," he continued, "CCSI is growing and we're starting to look at the future of cloud computing and the need for more remote support for our customers. As we add more staff we're going to need more space."

The move to downtown Vancouver gives CCSI approximately 1,500 square feet of additional space. It also provides the company with "more flexibility in the future," said Huotari.

"I'll have space for four to six additional staff moving forward," he noted.

It may not take long for CCSI to fill its unused space. Earlier this month, the company announced the hiring of Kirk Maddox as a client solutions representative. In addition to that, Huotari said he plans to hire three new staff members in the next six months.

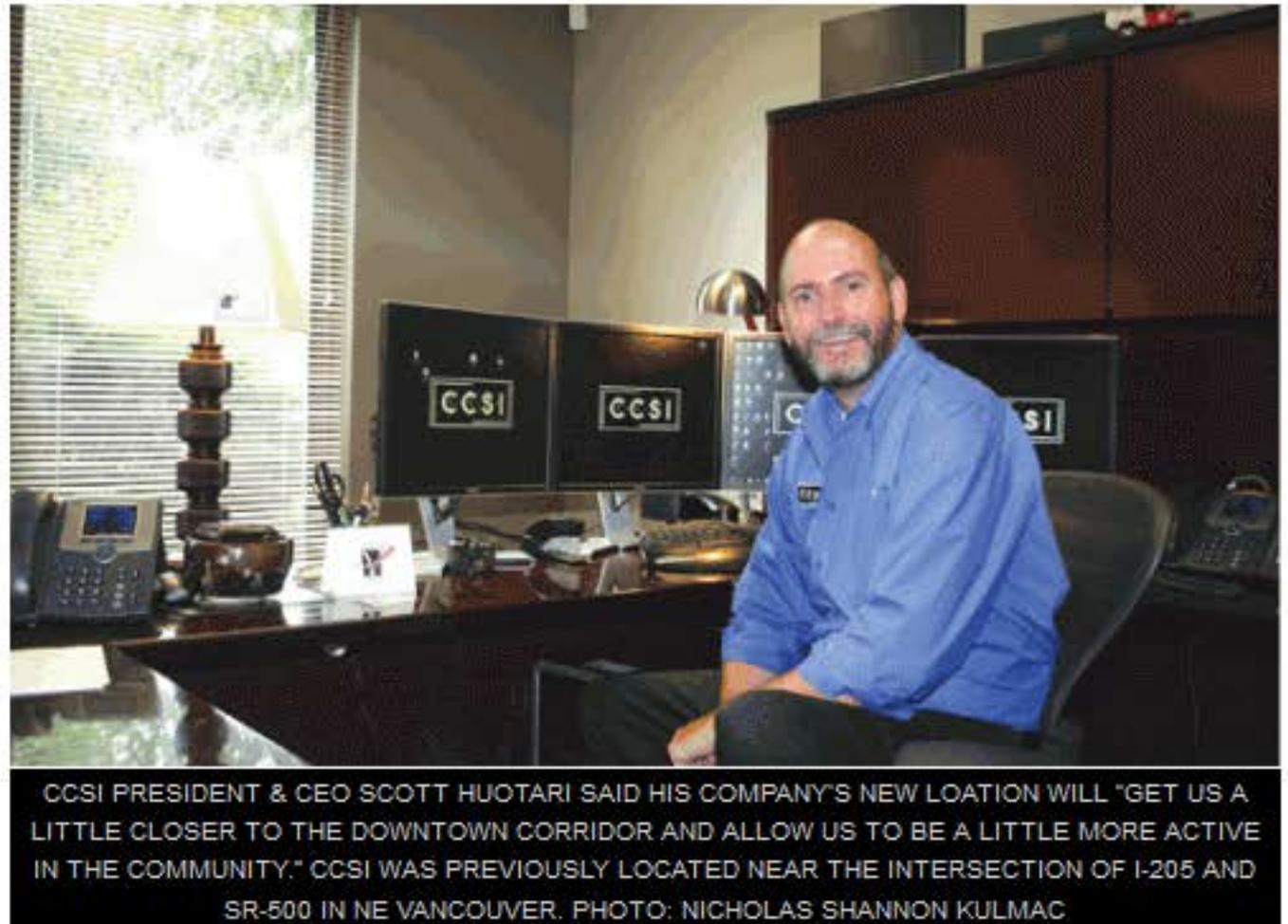
"What we've been focused on in the past two to three years is sustaining the company – keeping the level of service up that our customers are accustomed to," explained Huotari. "With the addition of Kirk (Maddox), we're going to begin a concerted effort toward marketing our company and showing people what we have to offer and what our differentiators are."

With an eye on the increasing number of businesses looking to transition to cloud computing technology, Huotari said he anticipates his company will grow 15 to 20 percent in the next 18 months.

"Branch office support and working on remote access to files is a very key element of our growth," he said. "The days of having a file server in your backroom are numbered. The cloud is here."

Huotari admitted that CCSI had been "hunkered down" and not doing as much community service as he would have liked. However, he said, that will change as the company settles into its new location.

"When you start looking at the plans and revitalization of downtown Vancouver, this place is just going to blow up in the next ten years," he said. "I want to be more active in that and I think that's the thing I'm most excited about."



CCSI PRESIDENT & CEO SCOTT HUOTARI SAID HIS COMPANY'S NEW LOCATION WILL "GET US A LITTLE CLOSER TO THE DOWNTOWN CORRIDOR AND ALLOW US TO BE A LITTLE MORE ACTIVE IN THE COMMUNITY." CCSI WAS PREVIOUSLY LOCATED NEAR THE INTERSECTION OF I-205 AND SR-500 IN NE VANCOUVER. PHOTO: NICHOLAS SHANNON KULMAC