

PGA Tour approved for Ponte Vedra Beach headquarters

By Scott Sailer
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The PGA Tour can build its estimated \$75 million global home now that St. Johns County approved a building permit Thursday for construction of the 187,000-square-foot headquarters.

The facility, at 5420 Palm Valley Road in Ponte Vedra Beach, is scheduled for completion in 2020.

The general contractor is listed as Sidney Jordan of Bethesda, Maryland-based Clark Construction Group LLC.

The permit shows a \$65 million construction cost for the shell building. Clark Construction Regional Marketing Manager Michelle Casale said the total will be about \$75 million.

The building, designed by London-based architects Foster+Partners, will consolidate more than 750 employees from 17 buildings in and around TPC Sawgrass. The new facility can accommodate several hundred more.

In a news release, PGA Tour described the building as a “pair of parallel three-story bays flanking a collaborative atrium.” Exterior glass walls, skylights and an atrium provide the building with natural light. The two bays will be connected by 20-foot-wide bridges.

The St. Johns County Commission approved \$2.8 million in incentives for the \$81 million project in October. In exchange, the PGA Tour promised to create 307 jobs by 2030 with an average wage of at least \$79,442.

PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan said the new building and the additional jobs are needed because of the international growth of golf. The PGA Tour has employees in eight countries.

Monahan said the nonprofit organization provides benefits to the communities where it holds tournaments, generating \$180 million for charities last year.

That includes \$8.7 million generated by The Players Championship annual tournament at TPC Sawgrass.