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Lakeland speedway land to turn into distribution site

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The land that once held the **USA International Speedway** is now under new ownership.

Rockefeller Group Development Corp. acquired 113 acres of the land off Interstate 4's exit 38 in Lakeland, and the Manhattan company hopes it will attract a commercial tenant.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

"Central Florida is quickly becoming a prime distribution center for the state, replacing traditional regional distribution hubs such as Atlanta," said Edgar Jones, vice president and regional development officer for Rockefeller's Miami office, in a release. "We are confident in the long-term potential of Central Florida and will continue looking for other development opportunities in the area."

The Lakeland site is said to have access to more than 8.5 million people within a 100-mile radius.

Rockefeller has plans to build an industrial park on the site with more than 1 million square feet in distribution space. The park would be targeted at large-scale tenants, executives said.

Rockefeller already maintains portfolios in New Jersey and California, and is making a marked expansion into Florida, with construction expected to begin by the first quarter of 2009.

Edward Miller and Dolores Seymor of Colliers Arnold in Tampa represented **The Rockefeller Group** in the purchase.

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