

# Amazon to expand cloud computing services in Phoenix in 2021

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E-commerce giant Amazon.com Inc. is stretching its reach even further in the area of cloud computing services, and the Phoenix area will play into the company's technology expansion plans.

Amazon said Tuesday that its [Amazon Web Services](#) Inc. subsidiary would bring a "local zone" to the Valley in 2021, according to an [announcement](#). The move will give customers a quicker way to use the company's computing, storage and other tech services.

It's part of a broader effort by Amazon Web Services, or AWS, to bring cloud-based data center tools to more parts of the U.S. Already, it's in parts of Los Angeles, and the announcement Tuesday adds several cities to the mix, including Houston, Boston and Miami. Phoenix is among 12 other U.S. cities slated to get the new capabilities next year, along with Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Kansas City, Las Vegas, Minneapolis, New York, Philadelphia, Portland and Seattle.

Amazon has massive data centers around the world, but local zones can help make technology services quicker for end users. This is especially needed for certain types of applications such as real-time gaming or live-video streaming. In those cases, its customers want AWS' gear closer to the actual people playing a new title or watching a movie.

Businesses "no longer need to incur the expense or effort of procuring, operating, and maintaining data centers or co-location facilities in various cities to support ultra-low latency applications," the company said in the announcement.

Amazon is expanding its reach as it looks to stay a step ahead of key competitors. The company was the No. 1 provider of a key area of cloud last year with 45 percent market share, easily topping No. 2 Microsoft, [according](#) to Gartner.

The move comes as Amazon is already growing its presence in the Valley by leaps and bounds.



Amazon Web Services' expansion in Phoenix is part of nationwide push for the cloud company.

Amazon has already announced [massive expansion plans in Phoenix](#) this year, and by 2021 will be the largest employer in the city of Goodyear, with nearly 3,000 employees in the city and 20,500 in total across the Valley.

The company is on pace to open 11 new fulfillment and delivery operations sites across the Valley by the end of the year.

Matthew High, regional director of fulfillment for Amazon, said the talent and workforce in the Phoenix area has been consistently strong.

“The workforce, community partners, an abundance of talent and being close to our customers are some of the contributing factors to site selection,” he said.

*Greg Barr of Phoenix Business Journal contributed to this report.*

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