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National real estate group seeks headquarters site

Atlanta's real estate community is known for its support of professional organizations such as the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties and the Atlanta Commercial Board of Realtors. The local NAIOP and commercial Realtor chapters are among the largest in the nation.

The creation of CoreNet Global should strengthen the local commitment to the commercial real estate industry. Its Atlanta chapter has about 450 members, which rivals chapters in much larger cities such as New York, Chicago and Los Angeles, said Don Buchanan of IBM, who serves as CoreNet's co-chairman with John DeCouto of Advantis.

Moreover, CoreNet has selected Atlanta for its headquarters. The group has hired Hometown Commercial owner Rick Lackey to find a spot to call home. (Lackey won't say where CoreNet is looking, but we've heard it's zeroing in on Colony Square in Midtown.)

CoreNet was formed in May when the International Associ-

ation of Corporate Real Estate Executives merged with the International Development Research Council. NACORE and IDRC were recognized as the two premier professional organizations for corporate real estate executives.

The Atlanta chapter of CoreNet was active as soon as the group formed, said Buzz Anderson, director of real estate at Cox Enterprises, which owns The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. "The energy and enthusiasm of the new Atlanta chapter has been tremendous," Anderson said. "While we worked hard to make the integration of NACORE and IDRC as seamless as possible, we've been amazed by how quickly the group has jelled to become one of the most active real estate associations in the city."

The local chapter will get more exposure next year when Atlanta hosts the CoreNet Global Summit. It is scheduled for Oct. 11-15, 2003.

"While our local chapter is excited about the exposure it will get from being the host

city of a Global Summit, it is also huge coup for the city of Atlanta itself," DeCouto said. "It gives economic development associations in the met-

ropolitan area a chance to showcase the city to corporate real estate executives and site selection specialists from around the world."