

# The Boston Globe

## Schneider Electric prepares to triple its HQ size in Boston with move to Winthrop Center

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The Winthrop Center tower, which Millennium Partners opened in 2023. DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

When the executives at Schneider Electric set out to find a new home for its North American headquarters, the company ended up in a tower that was already quite familiar to them.

On Tuesday, the French energy management company announced at a customer conference in Las Vegas that it will start moving into 75,000 square feet at [the Winthrop Center tower](#) around the middle of next year. The [Financial District tower](#) is just blocks away from Schneider's current Boston home, in 20,000 square feet at One Boston Place.

When developer Millennium Partners and builder Suffolk Construction opened Winthrop Center two years ago, it was considered the most energy-efficient tower in Boston — a title they could claim in no small part because of Schneider's work on the project.

As one of the largest office leases signed in Boston over the summer, the deal between Schneider and Millennium was already well-known in the city's commercial real estate sector. But in Vegas, the deal provided Schneider with bragging rights to current and future clients, as the company announced Winthrop will be its most efficient office building in the United States, a real-life showcase for its energy-efficiency hardware and software.

As Aamir Paul, Schneider's North American president, puts it: The deal marks more than just a change of address. It embodies, Paul said, Schneider's commitment to sustainability.

"We wanted to find a space that reflected that value," Paul said. "It was a wonderful, full-circle moment for us to land back at a building we helped create."

Barry Hynes of JLL represented Schneider in the negotiations, while Lauren Lipscomb of CBRE represented Millennium. The Healey administration also helped with the move, approving \$600,000 in tax credits for Schneider's retrofit costs in June, in return for investing millions of dollars in the new headquarters and creating 40 jobs.

More than 250 people work at Schneider's downtown office today, generally coming into the office three days a week. They'll make the move to Winthrop Center, as will the EnergySage business that Schneider acquired in 2022, currently based at Center Plaza across from City Hall. (Schneider also has Massachusetts facilities in Foxborough and Andover.)

The tower, built at the site of a run-down city-owned garage, has drawn a number of companies already, filling up more than 80 percent of the 812,000 square feet of available office space once the Schneider lease is factored in. Tenants that have already arrived include McKinsey & Co., Deloitte, investment firm Cambridge Associates, and M&T Bank. Millennium executives say the tenants are drawn to the amenities such as the fitness center, conference space, and ground-floor food hall. They also like the tower's environmental aspects. Now, one of the key companies responsible for those attributes will be joining them.