



Miami region gets B+ as Amazon HQ2 site, according to a report

Three South Florida economic development leaders discuss the possibility of having Amazon's second headquarters here and how the three counties are working together.



Marcia Heroux Pounds, Reporter - *Florida Sun Sentinel* – August 28, 2018

The Miami metro region gets an overall B+ grade as the site Amazon might choose for its second headquarters, according to a CNBC ranking.

On CNBC-TV's "Squawk Box" program Tuesday morning, correspondent Scott Cohn said Miami gets an A+ for population, B+ for stability, C+ for talent and B+ for location.

"I Amazon is serious about expanding its presence in Latin America — it already opened a new office in Buenos Aires this year — a Miami headquarters makes perfect sense," Cohn said. "Few places offer more air travel options, with hundreds of flights each day from Miami, Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach. A wealth of colleges and universities feed the talent pool, though STEM workers are in short supply. Florida's economy is relatively strong and stable.

"But high crime and poor health hurt the quality of life," he added.

The region is among 20 finalists for Amazon HQ2, as it is being called. Economic development agencies in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties worked together on a proposal that includes eight proposed South Florida sites.



Mike Finney, president and CEO of the Miami-Dade Beacon Council who was interviewed Tuesday on CNBC, said the region has one of the “most diverse talent pools you’re going to find any place in the U.S. It is a talent pool that is highly educated. People are coming here from all over the world.”

Cohn said Miami is hoping Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos might also be nostalgic about the area: He was 1982 valedictorian at Miami Palmetto Senior High School.

Although Amazon has not narrowed the list further, CNBC’s research points to Austin and Dallas, Texas; Atlanta, Boston, Denver, Miami, Nashville and Northern Virginia as “strong finishes” after Amazon’s site visits. Austin and Dallas get the highest overall grades: A-.

Amazon has said it plans a final decision before the end of 2018.

The Seattle-based, e-commerce giant has said it is looking for 100 acres for a development of about 8 million square feet. The second headquarters would bring 50,000 jobs and \$5 billion in investment to the chosen location.

John Boyd, an independent site selector based in New Jersey, has said that South Florida’s international tie-ins are a strong positive for Amazon choosing the region for its second headquarters.