



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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### **EMC Insurance Companies To Construct New Downtown Office Building**

DES MOINES, Iowa (Aug. 14, 2014) – EMC Insurance Companies is planning to construct a new office building in downtown Des Moines. The new four-story building will be located in the northwest quarter of the block bordered by Seventh and Eighth streets and Walnut and Mulberry streets.

“EMC has been headquartered in downtown Des Moines since the company was founded 103 years ago,” explains Bruce Kelley, president and chief executive officer of EMC. “The company is committed to the downtown Des Moines location and taking advantage of the amenities it has to offer.”

The EMC campus in downtown Des Moines currently includes the EMC home office building at 717 Mulberry, the 700 Walnut high-rise tower, the Hub Tower at Seventh and Walnut, the Kaleidoscope at the Hub, a parking garage and several surface parking lots. The new building will be constructed where there are three smaller vacant buildings that are no longer suitable for occupancy.

“This new construction is part of our 20-year plan that was developed when EMC constructed the 17-story building at 700 Walnut in 1997. The architect’s vision was to not overdevelop the entire block, but instead let the 700 Walnut building stand out as the major architectural feature,” concludes Kelley.

As of today, plans for the building include space for EMC’s Wellness Center, meeting rooms, and computer, mechanical and printing equipment, along with tenant space on the first floor facing Walnut Street. EMC is working with Brooks Borg Skiles Architecture Engineering in Des Moines on the plans for the new facility. The companies have partnered on building projects for more than 40 years, including the EMC buildings at 717 Mulberry Street and 700 Walnut Street.

An environmental analysis is underway, and the City of Des Moines is aware the Roberston, Robertson Annex and Foster buildings will be torn down in the fall. An assessment of the

buildings determined that their interiors have been extensively remodeled over the years and no longer have any of the original hardware, doors or other architectural elements. The review included information about when the buildings were constructed and how they were used. “Several issues, such as structural deficiencies, energy inefficiency and fire safety, prohibit the continued operation of these buildings from being a viable option,” explains Robert Link, senior vice president of administration at EMC. “We are proud to invest in the future of downtown Des Moines and look forward to constructing this new building.”

### **About EMC**

EMC Insurance Companies is among the top 50 insurance organizations in the country based on net written premium, with assets over \$3 billion and more than 2,100 employees. The company was organized in 1911 to write workers’ compensation protection in Iowa. Today, EMC provides property and casualty insurance products and services throughout the United States and writes reinsurance contracts worldwide. Operating under the trade name EMC Insurance Companies, Employers Mutual Casualty Company and one or more of its affiliated companies is licensed in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. For more information, visit [www.emcins.com](http://www.emcins.com) and [www.countonemc.com](http://www.countonemc.com).