



Urban Science expands Ren Cen space for 23 new positions

By Jon Zemke
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Urban Science continues to grow into one of the Renaissance Center's major tenants with its recent hires and new, expanded space.

The retail consulting firm has called the Ren Cen home since it opened in 1977 and the then new startup occupied 3,600 square feet. Today the company is in the midst of expanding its floor space to five floors of one of the skyscraper's towers. It's growth will probably cause it expand to six floors soon after it moves into the five early next year. Today, the firm has hired 30 people since May, surpassing its goal of hiring 30 by the end of the year.

"We blew the doors off that," says Jim Anderson, CEO of Urban Science. "We are at 280 people here in Detroit and we have 23 open positions."

The company employs 550 people worldwide in 16 offices. Those offices span from California to Virginia to Russia to China. It has been able to facilitate that growth by setting a new record for growth each year of its 33-year history. "We don't see a horizon on what the company can do," Anderson says.

Urban Science provides analysis for a variety of different retailers. The company has developer software programs that create analysis on a business's customers, its retail location and what it can do to improve the performance of both, among other things. One of its software programs for automotive dealers collects, analyzes, summarizes, and creates actionable goals for saving money and creating efficiencies. Another program sorts, grades, and manages Internet sales leads for automotive dealers.

