

## Kentucky company plans to open Jensen Beach gun store in mid-November

By Paul Ivice

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JENSEN BEACH — A Kentucky company has purchased a small, 7-year-old shopping center with plans to open its second gun store next month.

Lotus Gunworks, a family-owned company that opened its first store in Louisville about two years ago, paid \$3.45 million in April to purchase the 25,000-square-foot plaza on U.S. 1 that is home to West Marine and previously housed Sound Advice and Nextel stores.

West Marine leased the space last year after Thomasville Furniture moved out.

The gun store is going into the 10,050-square-foot space previously occupied by Sound Advice.

Lotus Gunworks also is making "a sizable investment to retrofit the building" before bringing in about \$2 million worth of inventory that will include collectible as well as modern arms, company spokesman Clay Masters said.

The company aims to open the gun store in mid-November, Masters said.

He said the company chose to open its second store in Martin County because the family member who will manage the store, Palm City resident Robbie Able, has lived here for more than 20 years.

West Marine's presence was a key factor in buying the property, Masters said.

"What made that property attractive to us was a national tenant that's very well-regarded," Masters said. "We thought that center held promise and can be a first-class facility if maintained properly."

