

BurgerFi signs letters of intent to open 30 additional restaurants

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A BurgerFi team member sanitizes after every patron dines.

Fast-casual burger chain BurgerFi International signed letters of intent to open 30 new restaurants, in addition to the nine it plans to open by the end of 2020.

Miami-based Opes Acquisition Corp. (Nasdaq: OPES) announced the openings in a Securities and Exchange Commission filing Tuesday. The company added that 18 of the company's 30 new units will be in Florida.

Opes plans to acquire Palm Beach-based BurgerFi for \$100 million.

The expansion plans include some non-traditional restaurants, according to the filing. BurgerFi recently announced a partnership with Reef Technologies to open ghost kitchens across the country, which are kitchens designed to fulfill delivery-only orders available through third-party apps such as Postmates, Uber Eats and GrubHub.

“This development represents an exciting first step in solidifying brand recognition in key markets where BurgerFi already has a strong presence and we believe that it primes the path for our strategic vision to continue our market expansion,” said Ophir Sternberg, chairman and CEO of Opes Acquisition Corp. “Franchisees have been doubling down on their investment and looking to expand their footprint.”

The company's filing did not say when the 30 new restaurants are slated to open.

BurgerFi has nine restaurants set to open by the end of this year, including three more locations in South Florida.

- **September openings:** Lake Nona and Towson, Maryland
- **October:** Miami and Lexington, Kentucky
- **November:** Boca Raton and Henderson, Nevada
- **December:** Palm Beach Gardens, St. Petersburg and Columbia, Maryland

BurgerFi has nearly 125 restaurants open, including eateries abroad.

Once Opes completes the acquisition of BurgerFi, it will become a publicly traded company and trade under the stock ticker BFI. BurgerFi and Opes first announced the deal in June.