



WISCONSIN'S GROWING

Business Expansion News Compiled by Forward Wisconsin

First Quarter 2005

APPLETON – Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, a non-profit financial services company, plans to hire 650 additional financial representatives by the end of 2005. Many of the new hires will work out of their operations center located in the Fox Valley. The firm's products include insurance, annuities, and mutual funds.

BARABOO – Seneca Foods has recently added 40,000-square-feet of new warehouse space and enabled a former warehouse to be converted to manufacturing. Thirty-eight new high-tech jobs have already been created and another 40 jobs will open up when the additional manufacturing space is completed. The company, the largest canned and frozen vegetable processor in the U.S., is investing \$12.8 million in their plant and it will bring total employment to about 240.

BIRON – Stora Enso North America is finalizing a \$50 million rebuild of its No. 26 paper machine. The machine, which produces magazine paper, will be more efficient and will increase production after the project is complete. Over 700 contractors, as well as company employees are doing the rebuild of the 540-foot machine. Crews are working 24 hours a day to get the project finished.

BROWN DEER – Dynal Biotech will lease an additional 18,000 square feet of office space adjacent to the firm's existing 33,000 square feet of space. The privately held company is based in Oslo, Norway with 70 employees in its Wisconsin location. The business manufactures and develops products used in testing genetic donor compatibility. The new space will be used for training and technical and customer support services.

CLEAR LAKE – AFP Advanced Food Products LLC, a producer of single-serve pudding cups, diet drinks and nacho cheese sauces, is investing \$3.2 million in new equipment to enhance production. The Wisconsin Department of Commerce is providing a \$40,000 training grant that will be used to instruct 16 new full-time employees on operating the new equipment.

DURAND – MBP Co., a processor of dry powdered milk, whey protein and other powdered food products, is investing \$1.6 million in an expansion. The Wisconsin Department of Commerce will provide a \$200,000 Community Development Block Grant-Economic Development Loan to assist the project. The company will add 36 new jobs as part of its growth.

EAU CLAIRE – Accu Tech Plastics, a producer of plastic film and foil extrusions for the computer, window and medical industries, plans to build and equip a new plant that will create nine jobs. The new \$2.4 million plant construction is being assisted by \$150,000 in tax credits through the Wisconsin Department of Commerce's Technology Zone program.

HAMMOND – Hammond Cold Storage will build a 125,000-square-foot distribution center and a 19,200-square-foot maintenance facility on a 22-acre lot in the Hammond-St. Croix Business Center. The firm, which plans to invest \$13 million in the project, will handle and distribute frozen foods for regional and national customers. The business is expected to create as many as 50 new jobs over the next three years. The Wisconsin Department of Commerce provided a \$275,000 block grant to St. Croix County to assist the project.

HARTFORD – Aurora Health Care is planning a \$4.8 million renovation and expansion of its hospital to accommodate increases in surgeries at the medical center. The project will include more than 6,200 square feet of new construction, remodeling of another 7,100 square feet, two new operating rooms, new waiting and recovery areas, as well as expanded nuclear medicine and ultrasound services. The project will be completed in April 2005.

HARTFORD – Fabri Fast is moving into a 10,000-square-foot space in the Dodge Industrial Park. The new company, which specializes in small-volume, precision sheet-metal operations, will initially employ six or seven workers with plans to hire up to 25 within the first two years of operation. The firm has an option to expand by another 10,000 square feet in the future at the same site.

HARTFORD – **Hydro Electronic Devices**, a leading designer and manufacturer of solid state electronic controls for mobile equipment applications, has announced it will build a new 20,000-square-foot facility during 2005. The firm currently employs 34.

HARTFORD – **P.J.'s Dental Lab** has purchased a 2.8-acre-site in the Dodge Industrial Park for construction of a new 10,000-square-foot production facility with offices. The firm, a leading producer of dental restoration systems, will grow from 15 employees to nearly 50 as a result of the expansion.

HARTFORD – **POLYFIRST Packaging** (formerly Advance Bag) has completed a new 19,576-square-foot expansion that brings the total size of its facility to 45,000 square feet. The additional space will be used to store and utilize inks. The firm is a producer of poly bags and employs 76 workers.

HARTFORD – **Signicast Corporation**, one of the world's most-innovative manufacturers of investment castings and metal alloys, has launched an 85,000-square-foot plant addition. The expansion will bring its manufacturing space up to nearly 500,000 square feet. The firm currently employs 500 and is continuing to hire.

HARTFORD – **Zeller Enterprises**, a logistics transportation firm, has begun construction of a new 18,000-square-foot building that will serve as a terminal headquarters facility. The firm has steadily grown from three employees at start-up to its current 18 workers.

JANESVILLE – **Bliss Communications**, the parent company of the Janesville Gazette, is building a state-of-the-art newspaper production facility on the city's far east side. The facility, which will be 30,000 to 40,000 square feet, is slated for operation in early 2007. The company will purchase an 8-acre site for the project. The new plant will house the newspaper's pre-press, press, packaging/distribution and newsprint storage operations.

JANESVILLE – **BUB Enterprises**, a California manufacturer of high-performance motorcycle exhaust systems, is moving into a 32,000-square-foot production facility at 3930 Enterprise Drive. The company plans to invest about \$1.5 million in new production equipment and the project will eventually create 80 new jobs. Production at the plant began in March of this year.

MADISON – **Clonex Development**, an early-stage biotech company involved in genetic engineering, will move from Chicago to the TEC Incubator on the city's East Side. The firm will receive \$135,000 from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce's Technology Venture Fund and Technology Assistance grant programs to assist the relocation. The company plans to hire as many as five additional employees over the next two years with a total project cost of \$340,000.

MANITOWOC – **Orion Energy Systems** will receive a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant Development loan from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce to help pay for equipment for the firm's growing manufacturing plant. The company, a designer and manufacturer of energy-efficient lighting products, will invest \$1.8 million and hire up to 100 new employees during its expansion process.

MENOMONEE FALLS – **Kohl's Corporation** is enlarging its 530,000-square-foot headquarters by 65%. The expansion will add 1000 jobs to the firm's current workforce of 2500. The Wisconsin Department of Commerce will assist the project with \$3 million in tax credits under the Enterprise Development Zone Program.

MILTON – **R&M Manufacturing and Consulting**, a new business that makes parts for the automotive and appliance industries, has located in the industrial park. The company initially employed about 30 workers but has plans to expand the workforce to 60 by the end of 2005. The start-up venture employs many people that had been laid off from another area manufacturing business.

MILWAUKEE – **Hydrite Chemical Co.**, a manufacturer and supplier of chemicals for various industries, is expanding beyond its main production plant into a neighboring building. The firm is renovating a building it purchased that is located across the street from its plant. The 29,000-square-foot facility will house a new research and development lab, as well as office and warehouse space. The expansion project will be completed in June.

MILWAUKEE – **Lena's Food Markets** is planning to redevelop a 33,000-square-foot building that formerly housed a food store, into a retail location. The central city grocer also plans to develop a 49,000-square-foot warehouse as well as another 12,000-square-foot retail space in another part of the city. The company is expected to create 145 jobs and will receive \$3.7 million in New Markets Tax Credits to support its project.

MILWAUKEE – **Silk Screens By Will**, a 15-year-old silk-screening company, has purchased an industrial building on the city's northwest side for \$2.7 million. The company plans to move into the 70,000-square-foot building by the end of the year. The firm currently operates out of two separate spaces that total 37,000 square feet. The new location will allow the business to more than double its production.

MT. PLEASANT – **Racine Federated** will receive \$250,000 in Technology Zone credits from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce to assist with business consolidation and the creation of new jobs. The company will invest \$890,000 in the project and create 22 new positions. The firm manufactures instruments used in general manufacturing, concrete paving and airport runway construction.

NEENAH – **Alta Resources**, a provider of customer care outsourcing services, is partnering with the City of Neenah to build a \$31 million office building and parking ramp. The seven-story complex will allow the company to consolidate its four locations and will create 336 new jobs. The City of Neenah will receive a \$500,000 brownfields grant from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce to help fund site remediation.

OSHKOSH – **Oshkosh Truck Corporation** plans to buy a 300,000-square-foot building near its headquarters to accommodate remanufacturing operations for its defense customers. In addition, the company has broken ground on a 45,000-square-foot expansion of its existing new product development facility. The firm is a \$2.3 billion manufacturer of specialty trucks and truck bodies for the defense, fire and emergency, concrete placement and refuse hauling markets.

PESHTIGO – **Aacer Flooring**, a manufacturer of wood flooring for the sports, commercial and residential markets, is nearing completion of a 125,000-square foot expansion that nearly doubles the size of its existing facility. The \$7.5 million project will include additional production space that features a second complete finish line and a climate-controlled warehouse for finished components. The expansion will result in the creation of 30 new jobs, bringing the firm's workforce to about 200.

RACINE – **Duracolor LLC** is receiving \$300,000 in Community Development Zone tax credits from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce to help it create at least 60 jobs. The graphic products company currently employs 38 and should reach more than 100 employees by next year. The tax credits will go toward new equipment and working capital.

RIVER FALLS – **Designer Doors** is retooling a vacant manufacturing facility here that will add 35,000 square feet of operations space and 7,000 square feet for new corporate offices. The company will invest \$2 million in the project, which is slated for completion this summer, and add 10 to 15 employees. The firm is a manufacturer of high-end garage doors, walk-through doors, and shutter and gates.

SCHOFIELD – **Crystal Finishing Systems** will add 150 jobs in the next 12 to 16 months with the help of \$200,000 in Technology Zone tax credits from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. The firm specializes in custom powder coating of steel, aluminum, and plastic and was recently awarded a large contract from Mercury Marine. The company is in the middle of construction on a 22,000-square-foot addition for its high-performance division, and work on a 34,000-square-foot expansion for its plastics division will begin in the spring.

TOWN OF SHEBOYGAN – **West Shore Industries**, a commercial furniture and wood products manufacturer, will create 34 to 44 new jobs in 2005. The company has already added 20 production workers and four office positions and will hire another 10 to 20 production workers this summer. The firm has leased a 30,000-square-foot warehouse to initially facilitate the move and will eventually expand its manufacturing plant by investing \$2 million in a 40,000-square-foot addition.

SPARTA – **SFI, Inc.** is constructing a new 24,000-square-foot building in the East Side Business Park. The firm is a cast polymer manufacturing company offering a full-line of molded bathroom vanity tops. Employment is expected to increase from 18 to 23 as a result of the expansion project, which is targeted for completion in spring 2005.

THORP – **Birchwood Lumber & Veneer** has been awarded \$250,000 in Agricultural Development Zone tax credits from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce for its expansion. The company began operations here in January 2005 and is investing \$1 million to purchase and equip the new facility. The facility currently has about 15 employees but plans to create about 100 jobs over the next three years. The firm is the nation's largest producer of commercial and industrial hardwood door coverings.

VALDERS – **Spancrete, Inc.** will build a 62,000-square-foot production facility on a 71-acre parcel just east of its current plant. The company makes pre-cast concrete walls, beams, slabs and floors with extruder machines it has developed. The firm has added 40 workers in the past two years and will add up to 35 more when the new building is completed.

WAUWATOSA – **Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital** and the **Medical College of Wisconsin Cancer Center** plan to break ground this spring on a \$120 million expansion. The project will create more space for clinical programs, research labs and faculty offices. The 173,000-square-foot expansion will complement previously announced plans by the Medical College to build a biomedical research building.

WAUWATOSA – **ZyStor Therapeutics** announcement this past November that it would move to the Technology Innovation Center has spurred the facility to add 6,600 square feet of lab space. About 4,200 square feet of the space is available for new tenants. It is the first time since the incubator started that its had a substantial amount of readily available, state of the art lab space. Zycor is developing therapies for rare genetic disorders and has signed a three-year lease with the Center.

WHITEWATER – **Husco International**, a Waukesha company whose hydraulic controls are used in heavy machinery, will hire about 30 new employees here in the next year. A new technology developed by the company called Incova – short for intelligent control valves – is fueling the employment growth and it generated a new contract with John Deere. Last year, the business added 175 employees and now has 900.

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