



WISCONSIN'S GROWING

Business Expansion News Compiled by Forward Wisconsin

Second Quarter 2005

APPLETON – C3 Corporation will receive \$250,000 in tax credits from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce Technology Zone program to help finance a new \$2.4 million technology center and related equipment. The Appleton Northeast Business Park will be home to the 18,000-square-foot building for the company, which is a designer/builder of custom machines and automation equipment. The project will create 28 jobs and will be completed this year.

ASHWAUBENON – Technology Tool & Die Inc. is investing \$800,000 in new equipment. The Wisconsin Department of Commerce is providing a \$35,000 Customized Labor Training Grant that will be used to train 14 employees to operate the added technology. The firm's services include custom-injection molds, die-cast dies, end-of-arm tooling, custom machining, and electrical-discharge machining.

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD – American Friction Welding Inc., has purchased a 55,000-square-foot building here that will replace its 20,000-square-foot leased facility in the City of Brookfield. The move will take place in 2006 and will result in adding at least five more employees. The company provides parts such as piston rods and trailer axles to customers in various industries. Besides friction welding, the firm orders materials and machine parts - heat-treats them - and maintains customer inventories.

CHILTON – Worthington Industries, a maker of propane and specialty gas cylinders, will consolidate operations here and add about 60 employees to its plant. Fox Valley Technical College gave the company \$12,500 in credit toward training its workers, which helped encourage the commitment by the company to the community. The firm will begin hiring this fall.

DEPERE – Humana Inc. will create 140 new jobs in Brown County due to the reorganization of its small business and individual health insurance operations. Both the small business and the individual health sectors have been steadily growing. Sixty-five of the new customer service positions will be filled in August of this year and the remainder will be filled in February 2006.

GERMANTOWN – Gehl's Guernsey Farms, Inc. has announced plans to construct a 282,000-square-foot warehouse on a 33.5-acre site. The company, whose products include cheese sauces, diet and nutritional drinks, iced cappuccino and shelf-stable pudding, is planning a January 2006 completion date for the project.

GERMANTOWN – Illing Company is relocating to two buildings in the Germantown Industrial Park that it recently acquired: a 106,000-square-foot manufacturing facility and a 21,201-square-foot office building. The company is a distributor of packaging materials and containers and also operates a silk-screening business. The firm employs 44 and has annual sales of \$10 million.

MADISON – EraGen Biosciences Inc. will receive a \$250,000 state Technology Development Loan from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce that will help the firm with a \$1 million upgrade to its manufacturing facility. The upgrade will enable it to produce a genetic screening test for Cystic Fibrosis and will ultimately create 75 new jobs. The privately held biotech firm develops diagnostics tests and drug discovery products.

MADISON – SAFC (formerly Tetrionics), a leading custom chemical manufacturer, has broken ground on a 38,000-square-foot expansion that will more than double the size of its existing building. The new two-story addition will include expanded R&D suites and labs, new manufacturing suites, and increased warehouse and storage.

MADISON & MIDDLETON – **Spectrum Brands**, formerly Rayovac Corporation, is consolidating its consumer home and garden unit from another state. The change will result in an additional 65 or more jobs coming to the Madison office over the next several months. Information services, finance and customer service operations will also be combined in Middleton. The company has signed a three-year lease to occupy 25,000-square-feet of space in the Greenway Building.

MADISON – **TrafficCast, Inc.** will expand its current facility by 3,800 square feet and invest \$1 million to grow its business. The firm will receive a \$100,000 Minority Business Development Loan and a \$100,000 Technology Venture Fund loan from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce to aid in the project that will create up to 50 jobs. The company has developed a Web-based software platform to produce inter-city, route-specific traffic and travel forecasts for emerging markets.

TOWN OF MENASHA AND GRAND CHUTE – **Pierce Manufacturing** is investing \$18.5 million in two expansion projects: one at its truck-making plant in the Town of Menasha and a second at its chassis production facility in Grand Chute. The work should be completed by early next year on the two separate projects that total 130,000-square-feet. The company is the leading North American manufacturer of custom fire equipment.

MEQUON – **National Hospitality Supply Inc.** is investing \$2.5 million to build a 33,000-square-foot distribution center on a 6.3-acre lot in the Mequon Business Park. The company has 20 employees and supplies restaurants and hotels with items such as flatware, linens, furniture, bedspreads, lamps, towels and shampoo. The firm broke ground on the project in May and hopes to have it completed this fall.

MILWAUKEE – **Bucyrus International** will expand its operations by taking over the former Metso Minerals plant on the city's south side. The project will create 100 new jobs, primarily welding positions that pay an estimated \$22 an hour with benefits. The company manufactures mining equipment and has experienced strong growth, particularly through its exports to China. The Wisconsin Department of Commerce will provide a \$306,000 loan to assist the expansion into the 750,000-square-foot plant.

MILWAUKEE – **Columbia St. Mary's Inc.** has announced plans to undertake the "largest healthcare building project in Wisconsin." The firm will be consolidating its Columbia Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital-Milwaukee campuses by 2010 with a \$417 million investment. The new hospital campus will include 670,000-square-feet of general hospital space, a 25,000-square-foot cancer center, two medical office buildings totaling 225,000-square-feet and the renovation of 190,000-square-feet of the current St. Mary's campus. Groundbreaking will take place this fall and the facility will be sited on 20-acres and include 513 inpatient beds.

MILWAUKEE – **Kubin-Nicholson Corp**, a large-format, commercial printer with 150 employees, is investing \$7 million to buy and install one of the world's largest lithographic presses. The company is revamping its North 87th Street plant to make room for the 81-inch press. The new six-color lithographic press will be one of only three in North America. It will take 22 semi-trucks to transport the press to the company's facility.

MILWAUKEE – **Surfaces Transport, Inc.** a floor-covering materials transporter and storage company, is investing \$1.8 million to purchase, renovate and equip a long-vacant building at 6066 N. 76th Street on the city's northwest side. The project is expected to create 23 jobs. The venture will be assisted by \$69,000 in tax credits from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce's Community Development Zone program.

MOSINEE – **SNE Enterprises** is adding 300 jobs to its plant over the next several months with the help of a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. The company manufactures doors and windows under the Crestline, Vetter and Peachtree brand names. The positions will pay between \$10 and \$15 an hour and will include a pension plan and health insurance. The firm runs three shifts and is hiring loaders, receivers, assemblers, and small/large machine operators.

NEENAH – **Outlook Group Corporation**, a printing, packaging and direct marketing firm, is investing \$750,000 in a new press and related software. The company is the first business in the Fox Valley area to have a NexPress 2100 and Printable Technologies software. The digital four-color press combines high-quality digital printing with personalization capabilities that works well for direct marketing projects.

TOWN OF NEENAH – United Plastic Fabricating, the world's leading manufacturer of foam and water tanks for the fire service, will move to a new 70,000-square-foot manufacturing plant to accommodate its growing business. The \$4 million project will be located on an 8-acre site and will be ready for occupancy by December 1. The expansion will create 20 to 25 new jobs.

PRAIRIE DU CHIEN – Miniature Precision Components has completed a 25,000-square-foot expansion, consisting of 20,000-square-foot of manufacturing space and 5,000-square-foot of office space. The firm also expects to hire about 50 employees due to its business growth. The plastics company ships out two million oil caps each month, along with one million emissions quick connects and 300,000 PC valves.

TOWN OF RICHFIELD – Wurth Adams Nut & Bolt Company has outgrown its existing facilities and is building larger offices and a warehouse in the new Endeavor Business Park. Construction of the \$2.7 million, 56,000-square-foot building began in April and is slated for an August completion. The firm has seen its labor force grow from five employees in 2002 to its current level of 30. The supplier of nuts and bolts contracts with domestic and foreign manufacturers for the fasteners it supplies.

SHAWANO – Owens Forest Products Company, a manufacturer of hardwood interior doors and engineered hardwood floors, is expanding its operations by building a new plant and purchasing new equipment. The Wisconsin Department of Commerce is providing a Community Development Block Grant loan that will help finance the \$4 million expansion project. The growth will create 75 new jobs over the coming months.

STANLEY – Natural Chem Group has announced the construction of a new \$105 million natural feed plant that will turn corn meal and liquids – leftovers from ethanol plants – into feed for cattle and poultry. The new facility would be constructed near the Ace Ethanol plant on the west side of the city and could be open in the third quarter of 2006. The project will create 33 new jobs.

SUN PRAIRIE – Weimer Bearing and Transmission Inc., a manufacturer and distributor of bearings and transmission equipment, is expanding. The firm has moved into a new leased building that is twice the size of its former location. The operation currently has eight employees and plans to add three or four over the next year. The move to the larger facility will enable the business to accommodate growth in the Madison market.

SUSSEX, HARTFORD & LOMIRA – Quad Graphics, a leading commercial printer, has major expansion projects underway in these three cities and is seeking about 250 new employees at its various Wisconsin locations. The firm has committed to Wisconsin-based plant expansions and equipment purchases totaling about \$230 million in investment.

WAUSAU – Graebel Companies Inc. has announced that it will add 75 jobs to its downtown office. The office provides support services for the firm's U.S. operations. The new jobs will range from entry-level positions to supervisory positions and pay from \$20,000 a year to \$60,000 a year. The company is the world's largest private moving company and employs 2500 worldwide.

WEST MILWAUKEE – Journal Sentinel Inc., a subsidiary of Journal Communications, will construct a \$2.8 million addition onto its two-year-old, \$112 million newspaper production plant that became fully operational in March 2003. The 30,500-square-foot addition will house a distribution center where 200 Journal Sentinel carriers will pick up their newspapers and advertising supplements. The new center is expected to open later this year. In addition, the firm will install three new German presses at the printing facility in July at a cost of about \$3 million.

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – Renaissance Learning, Inc. will be adding 15 new local sales positions as a result of collaboration with Harcourt Achieve to develop a reading intervention package for middle school students. The software and print collaboration will dramatically improve the reading ability of students and will be in classrooms this fall. The company currently has more than 500 employees and has programs that are used by 67,000 schools across the country.