



WISCONSIN'S GROWING

Business Expansion News Compiled by Forward Wisconsin

Fourth Quarter 2004

APPLETON – CMD Corp., a designer and manufacturer of converting and packaging equipment, is building a new technology center in the Northeast Industrial Park. The new 42,542-square-foot building will be completed by June 2005. The facility will include the company's research and development group, product development, test bays and manufacturing. The firm is receiving a \$250,000 technology zone award through the Northeast Wisconsin Regional Economic Partnership to assist the project.

BALSAM LAKE – Bishop Fixture & Millwork, a manufacturer and installer of wood and metal store fixtures and custom millwork, will receive a \$1.2 million industrial revenue bond allocation to fuel its expansion. The company is planning a \$2 million, 45,000-square-foot addition to its existing facility that is expected to create 130 new jobs.

BELOIT – Frito-Lay's original proposal for a 40,000-square-foot expansion of its warehouse in the industrial park has been upped to 75,000 square feet as it moves more operations here from other parts of the country. The expansion will result in more distribution through the city and will generate 25-35 more jobs.

BELOIT – Seiberling Associates, a Roscoe, Illinois-based engineering firm, is relocating its corporate headquarters this spring. The firm will bring 30 engineering, administrative and support employees to a newly renovated portion of the second floor of the Besly building. The company, which specializes in processing and control system engineering services to dairy, pharmacy and biotech industries worldwide, will occupy 15,000 square feet of office and storage space.

CHIPPEWA FALLS – Advanced Laser Machining, Inc., a metal fabricating and state-of-the-art laser cutting operation, is investing \$2 million to expand and equip its facility. The project, assisted by \$150,000 in Technology Zone tax credits from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce, will create 13 new positions.

CHIPPEWA FALLS – Premium Waters, Inc. is completing an \$8 million, 48,500- square-foot expansion to their existing facility that will create 15 new jobs. The addition includes warehouse and office space as well as a new blow molding process to make bottles for the water bottling operation. The project was scheduled for completion at the end of 2004.

CRANDON – Rhinelander Door & Millwork will acquire the building it has been leasing, construct an addition to the plant and purchase equipment with the help of a \$226,000 industrial revenue bond allocation. The total project cost is \$685,000 and it will create six jobs.

EAU CLAIRE – National Presto Industries Inc. is planning to spend \$26.4 million for equipment and will hire 100 workers for its facility. The firm makes adult-incontinence products and sees a strong business opportunity with the aging population. The company will receive a \$500,000 financial package from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce to assist the project.

FITCHBURG – Platypus Technologies, a biotechnology firm that uses liquid crystals to detect nanoscale changes on cell surfaces, will be the first biotech company to locate in the Fitchburg Technology Campus in June 2005. The business, which has about 20 employees, will occupy about 8,000 square feet of the two-story, 46,000-square-foot New Venture Center.

FORT ATKINSON – Cygnus Business Media has broken ground on a new production plant that will house more than 240 employees that currently work in separate buildings. The new facility will also have space available for 70 additional workers. The media company produces nearly 70 trade publications.

FOX LAKE – **Karavan Trailers, Inc.**, a manufacturer of original equipment and private label boat, watercraft, utility, snowmobile, and other recreational trailers, is modernizing and expanding its operations. The project is expected to create 33 new jobs and generate \$3.5 million in capital investment. The firm received a \$3.5 million industrial revenue bond allocation. The company is one of the largest recreational trailer manufacturers in the United States, with dealers and distributors worldwide.

GLENDALE – **Actuant Corp.**, a producer of hydraulic systems that raise and lower the roofs on convertible cars, expects to add 50 jobs at its factory here in the next year due to strong sales growth. The plant currently employs 51 in the production of convertible-motion systems for the Chrysler PT Cruiser and Chevy SSR vehicles. It will soon add production of similar systems for the Volkswagen Beetle to this location as well.

GREEN BAY – **Georgia-Pacific Corporation** is investing nearly \$62 million to rebuild an existing paper machine, upgrade converting equipment and retrain workers. The project, assisted by a \$500,000 loan from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce, will include training assistance to over 600 highly paid manufacturing positions. The company employs over 3800 in the city.

HALLIE – **Rex Systems Incorporated** will receive \$250,000 in Technology Zone tax credits from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce to assist the company as it invests over \$16 million to research and develop a First Responder Communications System. The firm, a manufacturer of military electronic/spare parts, will create 32 new high-tech positions over the first three years of the project.

HARTFORD – **Glenn Hepfner Inc.** is constructing an 80,000-square-foot manufacturing facility with the assistance of a \$4.2 million industrial revenue bond allocation. The project, which includes the purchase of additional equipment, represents a total investment of \$5.7 million and will create 10 jobs.

HARTFORD – **Quad/Graphics**, one of the largest commercial printers in the United States, is planning to expand its printing plant by 161,416 square feet for the purpose of creating a holding area for publications just before shipping. The need for the addition stems from increased demand for the company's printing services and a new printing press is also being constructed. The new space will be completed in late summer 2005.

HARTFORD, LOMIRA, PEWAUKEE, SUSSEX & WEST ALLIS – **Quad/Graphics** is actively recruiting workers for about 300 new jobs at five of its printing plants in the state. The new positions are a result of increased business, seasonal demand and the introduction of new equipment. The firm already added nearly 150 employees in 2004 and has invested in more than \$200 million in new equipment at its Wisconsin plants.

IXONIA – **Create-A-Pack Foods**, a food processing and packaging firm, will build a new 60,328-square-foot building in the industrial park. The project will create 20 new jobs and generate \$4.5 million in capital investment. The company received a \$3 million industrial revenue bond allocation for the expansion.

JACKSON – **Badger Tire & Wheel** is constructing and equipping a new manufacturing facility in the industrial park that will create five jobs and generate \$3 million in capital investment. The company, a manufacturer and distributor of trailer components for the boat, camper and horse trailer markets, is receiving a \$3 million industrial revenue bond allocation to assist its project.

JANESVILLE – **Lowe's**, the second largest improvement retailer in the world, was welcomed to the state in October with a \$500,000 low interest loan from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. The firm will make a \$7.5 million investment over the next five years in a millwork facility that will ultimately create over 100 new jobs. The company is locating in an existing 210,000-square-foot building at 2727 Venture Drive.

JANESVILLE – **United Alloy**, a maker of fabricated metal parts and components, is investing \$11.1 million in equipment and construction of a new facility. The new 84,000-square-foot plant is expected to create 118 jobs. The company is receiving a \$250,000 Community Development Zone tax credit from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce to assist the project.

KENOSHA – **Xten Industries**, a custom plastic molding company, is expanding its facility located in the Business Park of Kenosha. The firm recently added more than \$1 million in new robotic production machinery and a third shift of workers. The business planned to expand its workforce from 59 to 100 by the end of 2004 due to new accounts the company has secured.

MADISON – **Associated Bank** will locate a new local headquarters in 20,000-square-foot of office space in Old Sauk Trails Park. A new \$12 million, four-story, 94,000-square-foot office building will be completed by fall 2005 and the bank will lease the entire first floor. The company's space will serve as a regular banking branch as well as a regional headquarters.

MADISON – **Covance**, one of the world's largest drug development services companies, has announced plans for a \$50+ million project which could create as many as 400 jobs. The drug testing company will break ground in February 2005 for a three-story, 210,000-square-foot laboratory and office space project at the firm's eastside site on Kinsman Boulevard. The Department of Commerce has promised a \$2 million package of loans, tax credits and training grants to the business.

MADISON – **Mentor Corporation**, a Santa Barbara, California-based supplier of medical products, will occupy a new manufacturing facility adjacent to the University of Wisconsin. The new plant is dedicated to the research and development of products based in Botox for use in cosmetic surgery. The location was established through a broad licensing agreement with WARF. The company expects to employ five initially with the addition of up to 25 workers within a year.

MADISON – **Paragon Development Systems**, a manufacturer and reseller of computer components, is spending \$2 million to upgrade technology used in its call center. The call center, and its 25 employees, relocated to the city in July and joined about 35 sales and engineering technicians already in the office here. Planning has begun by the firm to possibly double, in 2005, the number of customer service agents it employs.

MADISON – **QRG Bioscience** will move its corporate headquarters into the University Research Park at 455 Science Drive. The firm is a developer of therapeutic products for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases. The company is attempting to develop products that fight the diseases of aging.

MEQUON – **Columbia St. Mary's** hospital has proposed a \$100 million, 330,000-square-foot addition that will double the size of its Ozaukee Campus. The addition's primary components will be a new 159,000-square-foot inpatient wing and a 162,500-square-foot three-level ambulatory care center. Groundbreaking is planned for the summer of 2005 with completion in 2007.

MEQUON – **Great Lakes Media Technologies Inc.** is planning to build a 30,000-square-foot addition to its plant, which will double the size of its facility. The firm, which manufactures and replicates DVDs, recently invested \$2.5 million in new equipment to meet the rising demand for corporate digital video discs. Construction is expected to begin in early spring 2005.

MILWAUKEE – **Brady Corporation**, a maker of industrial signs, labels, printers, safety devices and software, has announced plans for a 60,000-square-foot expansion of its Good Hope Road facility for a Central Distribution Center. The \$10 million project will consolidate warehousing and distribution services from several U.S. locations. The company broke ground in October on land it owns adjacent to its corporate headquarters. The entire project is expected to take 12 to 18 months to complete.

MILWAUKEE – **Capital Returns, Inc.**, a firm that sorts and ships expiring pharmaceuticals, has agreed to lease 151,000 square feet on the city's northwest side. The firm is consolidating operations from two buildings that total 90,000 square feet. The company has grown from 240 employees to 370 workers in the past year and will begin the move to the new location in February 2005. The Wisconsin Department of Commerce is providing a \$250,000 Major Economic Development Loan to assist the consolidation project.

MILWAUKEE – **Compo Steel Products** has received a \$250,000 Major Economic Development Loan from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce that will assist the creation of 68 new jobs. The company, a manufacturer of steel electrical enclosures, fuel tanks and locomotive parts, is investing \$1.3 in new equipment and working capital.

MILWAUKEE – **Smurfit-Stone Container Corp.** is building a 54,000-square-foot addition that will nearly double the size of its flexible packaging factory on the city's northwest side. The \$3 million project began construction in December and will be completed by July 2005. The company will add at least 12 jobs as a result of the expansion. The firm prints and fabricates materials for customers in the meat, cheese, candy and pharmaceutical industries.

MILWAUKEE – **Towne Investments** has opened a 6,000-square-foot high-tech incubator named the IT Fusion Business Center 633 in the downtown area. The state-of-the art facility will provide space for emerging, technology-focused business.

MONDOVI - **Marten Transportation**, a long-haul truck carrier, is investing \$1 million to expand its headquarters. The project is expected to create 162 full-time positions. The firm will receive a \$250,000 Agricultural Development Zone tax credit from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce to help finance the expansion.

MONROE – **EPCO Carbon Dioxide Products** will receive a \$54,000 Agricultural Development Zone tax credit and the City of Monroe has been awarded a \$195,000 Community Development Block Grant – both from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce - to help the company's expansion. The firm, a producer of food-grade liquid carbon dioxide, will invest \$2.7 million in its facility and create 26 jobs.

MONROE – **Roth Kase USA Ltd**, a specialty cheese producer, will be expanding with the help of a \$5 million industrial revenue bond allocation. The project will include the addition of a company break room and cheese processing area, the purchase of a new vat, brine tanks and "cheese-smearing" robot, and a 13,000-square-foot addition for curing gruyere-type cheeses. The renovation is expected to increase existing plant capacity up to 30 percent.

MUSKEGO – **InPro Corp.** plans to build a \$3.5 million, 89,000-square-foot addition to its plant that will include additional office space and a distribution center. The consolidation project cost is estimated at \$4.7 million and will be completed by November 2005. The firm has four manufacturing divisions: door and wall protection systems; architectural joint systems; signage; and, privacy curtains, shower curtains, bedspreads and window treatments.

NEW LONDON – **Wolf River Lumber Company**, a manufacturer and kiln-dryer of wood, will invest \$4.5 million to construct and equip an 80,000-square-foot facility. The company will receive \$250,000 in Technology Zone tax credits from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. The project will create 58 new jobs.

NORTH PRAIRIE – **Total Quality Plastics Inc.** is more than doubling the size of its existing plant, which will allow for a fourfold increase in business as well as additional workers. The 36,000-square-foot addition to the existing 23,000-square-foot plant will represent a \$4 million investment by the firm. The company is a custom injection molding operation that provides plastic components to original equipment manufacturers in southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois.

OCONOMOWOC – **Ace Precision Machining Corp.**, a manufacturer and repairer of gas turbine engine components, will invest \$3.3 million in a new facility and equipment. The project will create about 100 new jobs. The company will receive \$150,000 in Technology Zone tax credits from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce to help with the expansion.

OSHKOSH – **Federal Express** is building a new 51,000-square-foot distribution center and will add 130 jobs to its existing workforce in the city. The new building is part of a nationwide, multi-billion dollar expansion that will ultimately double the number of packages FedEx Ground can handle every day. The project, which is slated for completion in spring 2005, is being built on a 7.4-acre parcel and will generate about \$2.1 million in tax base increment for the Northwest Industrial Park.

PEWAUKEE – **Waukesha County Technical College** has approved the concept of building a \$3.9 million printing center to benefit the nation's printing industry and allow students access to the newest printing technologies. The proposed 26,000-square-foot facility will include space for vendors to exhibit the latest product innovations.

TOWN OF RICHFIELD – **Wurth Adams Nut & Bolt Co.** is constructing a 55,000-square-foot distribution center in the new \$30 million Endeavor Business Park. The company, a vendor for Briggs & Stratton and Harley-Davidson, will occupy one of 24 industrial and commercial lots in the development.

RICHLAND CENTER – **Seats Incorporated** is investing \$1.05 million in an expansion that will give the corporation a building with more space, capacity and ability to focus on new products. The new plant will be in the old California Amplifier building and employment is expected to grow to 40-50 people in the first year. The company is a manufacturer of seating for heavy duty and emergency vehicles, delivery vans, motor coaches, locomotives and construction equipment.

RIPON – **Alliance Laundry Systems** will re-enter the U.S. consumer laundry equipment market and has received a \$1 million Community Development Block grant loan from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce to help it do so. The assistance will help the firm purchase equipment for a new product line and recruit and train employees. The new Speed Queen washer and dryer production line will create 400 new manufacturing jobs. The company is the world's largest maker of commercial laundry equipment.

SHEBOYGAN – **Padanoplast USA**, a manufacturer of compounds for the pipe, wire and cable markets, is increasing production through the purchase of new equipment. The project will create 33 new jobs and generate \$3.5 million in capital investment. The firm is receiving a \$3.5 million industrial revenue bond allocation to help with the project.

STEVENS POINT – **ProLogic, Inc.** has announced plans to open a software engineering center in a 4,000-square-foot office space in the city's downtown. The firm, which writes secure IT software for business and government clients, will create 12 high-end technology jobs and plans to implement an internship program geared toward UW-Stevens Point students.

SUAMICO – **Winona Foods** has completed a new \$8 million facility and is adding more than 20 jobs to its current workforce of 27. The 50,000-square-foot building will allow the cheese manufacturer to expand its production and distribution capabilities. The location features a new retail concept for the company – The Painted Cow Creamery and Deli, a cafe and gourmet food shop now open to the public.

TWO RIVERS – **Electrica**, an Italian manufacturer of electrical components for appliances and general-purpose applications, will begin operations in a city-owned building in spring 2005. The company expects to hire six employees initially and could add a dozen or more over the next five years. The firm will lease the city's 5,000-square-foot incubator building for its first U.S. production facility.

WAUWATOSA – **Children's Hospital & Health System** and the **Medical College of Wisconsin** will build a 295,000-square-foot, \$117 million joint research facility. The project will add more than 300 research jobs and will be completed by December 2006. The new center will include shared labs and support services and act as a bio-medical research incubator.

WESTON – **Wisconsin Public Service Corp.** has begun construction on a \$752 million, 500-megawatt power addition to the company's Weston Power Plant. The Weston 4 facility is expected to begin operations in 2008 and about 40 new permanent jobs will be created when the plant becomes operational. About 1200 people will work on the construction. The investor-owned electric utility, based in Green Bay, provides service to 24 counties throughout Wisconsin and Michigan.

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