



WISCONSIN'S GROWING

Business Expansion News Compiled by Forward Wisconsin

Fourth Quarter 2005

APPLETON – **Airgas** has broken ground on a new 43,686-square-foot facility in the city's Northeast Business Park. The company is the largest U.S. distributor of industrial, medical and specialty gases, welding, safety and related products. The building will be constructed on a 9.5-acre site and is scheduled to open in early 2006 and will include a 7,000-square-foot office area.

ARCADIA – **Ashley Furniture Industries** is building a new manufacturing plant at its headquarters here that will create 288 new jobs. The \$14.3 million project will be on a 14-acre site. The new storage and manufacturing space will allow the furniture manufacturer to reduce costs by \$6.5 million annually by keeping manufacturing and materials close to each other. The firm currently employs about 3500 people in the area.

BARABOO – **Humane Manufacturing**, a nearly 100-year-old rubber mat manufacturer, is expecting to add 20 to 30 new jobs over the next five years. The company's mats are used for horse and dairy barns, as well as in gyms and fitness centers. The business currently has 45 employees in Baraboo and 40 in Janesville.

BARABOO – **Teel Plastics**, a custom manufacturer of close tolerance plastic tubing and profile products, is building a new manufacturing plant and company headquarters. The project will be located on an 80-acre site on the west edge of the city. The Wisconsin Department of Commerce is providing a \$386,000 CDBG-PFED grant to the City of Baraboo to assist the expansion project that will create 76 jobs.

BELOIT – **Regal-Beloit Corporation** has received a \$500,000 loan from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce to assist with a \$5 million investment to establish a training center at its headquarter location. The project will create 15 new jobs. The company is a manufacturer of mechanical and electrical motion control and power generation products.

BOSCOBEL – **Nu-Pak, Inc.** will invest \$6.5 million to fund a 40,000-square-foot building expansion that will include manufacturing, freezer and storage areas. The company, a co-manufacturer and generic contract packager, will create 87 new jobs. The Wisconsin Department of Commerce is providing \$250,000 in Community Development Zone tax credits to assist with the job creation project.

BOYD – **C & N Manufacturing** is constructing a 12,000-square-foot addition that will double the size of its current facility. Chippewa County is providing a \$35,000 revolving loan and the Village of Boyd is chipping in with a \$30,000 loan to assist the \$525,000 project. The company makes wood and steel footlockers, which are popular on college campuses. The firm expects to add up to five new jobs as a result of the expansion.

TOWN OF BRISTOL – **Quality Centers**, an Orlando, Florida-based developer, plans to build a shopping center on 100 acres on the corner of Interstate 94 and Highway 50. The firm hopes to open a 700,000-square-foot retail operation by the third quarter of 2007.

BROOKFIELD – **Kolb & Co.**, a 100-employee business consulting and accounting firm, has signed a lease for 32,000-square-feet of space at the Bishops Woods office park. The new office will include a training room that can accommodate 50 people. The building will allow the company to grow by 30 percent and make it better organized to address client needs.

CLINTONVILLE – **Schutt Industries** has landed a multi-year contract with the U.S. Army to make 7,000 military trailers for use in Iraq and Afghanistan. The value of the contract is more than \$100 million. The small trailer manufacturer will be adding manufacturing space and employees as a result of securing the new business.

CRANDON – **The Forest County Potawatomi** and CoVantage Credit Union have partnered to build a new \$10 million administration building for the tribe. The project broke ground in September 2005 and will create about 80 construction jobs. The facility will house the Tribe's government operations and should be completed by summer 2006. The Tribe is the largest employer in Forest County.

DEFOREST – **ABS Global**, a cattle genetics business, has opened a new distribution facility on the company's grounds. The building houses 80 liquid nitrogen tanks containing 5.5 million units of bovine semen. The firm named the distribution center after its consultant and former president of 20 years, Robert Walton.

DEFOREST – **Anamax of Green Bay** is planning to have a \$10 million biodiesel plant up and running here by the summer of 2006. The facility would be the first commercial biodiesel plant in the state and would be able to process restaurant grease and other oils into 20 million gallons of diesel fuel a year. The plant would create 10 to 20 new jobs and would be built next to an existing Anamax Grease Services plant that processes restaurant grease into livestock feed.

DE PERE and OCONTO FALLS – **Tissue Products Technology**, the owner of **Eco Fibre** (De Pere) and **Oconto Falls Tissue** (Oconto Falls), will build two paper machines at each location and create up to 350 new jobs as a result. The four new machines will make tissue products for other paper companies. About \$150 million will be invested in De Pere and \$100 million in Oconto Falls. Work on the new machines will begin in the spring of 2006 and will take about two years to complete.

EAU CLAIRE – **Menard, Inc.** will construct a new corporate headquarters for its Midwest Manufacturing Division, and develop a new data center. The State of Wisconsin will assist the project with a \$4.2 million incentive package, including \$1.5 million in income tax credits and a \$1.5 million loan from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce, as well as a \$1.2 million grant from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. The project is expected to create 200 new jobs. The company is the nation's third largest home improvement retailer with 210 Midwest stores.

FITCHBURG – **The Fitchburg Technology Campus** has begun construction of an \$8 million, 46,000-square-foot building that will house early stage companies. **Imago Scientific**, a microscope developer and manufacturer, will occupy about one-third of the new facility and will be the anchor tenant. The firm will bring 46 employees to the new space and hope to increase employment to 71 by mid-2006. The "New Venture Building" is expected to be completed by June 2006.

FITCHBURG – **Tri-North Builders**, a 25-year-old construction firm that specializes in designing and building retail stores, is putting up a new corporate headquarters. The 53,000-square-foot, \$5.5 million structure will be located in the Fitchburg Technology Campus. It will include three floors and will triple the amount of space the company currently occupies.

FOND DU LAC – **Mid-States Aluminum Corp.** is investing in efficiency improvements and updating equipment on its new anodizing line. The project will add 24 new jobs over the next two years and will create more space for the additional workers. Loans from the city's Redevelopment Authority, the county revolving loan fund, as well as \$250,000 in Wisconsin Department of Commerce Community Development Zone Tax Credits, assisted the project. The company extrudes, machines, fabricates, and finishes aluminum.

FRANKLIN – **Strauss Veal & Lamb**, one of the nation's leading veal and lamb companies, has acquired the assets of Illinois-based Swissland Packing Company. The company will move the Swissland production operations to Wisconsin. With the acquisition, the firm will grow from a \$100 million company to a \$140 million company and add 25 jobs to bring its total workforce to 225 employees.

FRANKLIN – **Wheaton Franciscan Services** has plans to build a 275,000-square-foot, \$80 million outpatient facility. The building will occupy a 55-acre site and will offer 23 beds for day procedures and overnight stays. It will also have a surgery center, retail pharmacy, emergency department, dining and a gift shop. The health center, scheduled to break ground in June 2006, will initially have six doctors with 15 planned within five years.

GRAND CHUTE – **SMT Engineering, LLC**, an electronic hardware, software and circuit-board design services company, will receive \$81,000 in Technology Zone tax credits. The Northeast Wisconsin Regional Economic Partnership Technology Zone is providing the credits. The expansion project will create up to nine jobs.

GREEN BAY – **Advance Business Development Center** – the Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce's business incubator program – has moved into a new \$5 million, 55,000-square-foot Business Assistance Center building. The facility is on the Northeast Wisconsin Technical College campus and is connected to the college's new Manufacturing Technology Extension Partnership. The incubator was among the first in Wisconsin and has graduated more than 100 start-up firms.

GREEN BAY – **Associated Banc-Corp** has invested \$1.5 million to renovate a 14,000-square-foot building in the downtown. The facility houses training rooms, payroll, marketing and legal departments for the bank. About 50 employees moved there from the company's headquarters about 5.5 miles away and an additional 80 people come into the downtown to use the training center each day.

HARTFORD – **ABS Sales and Service LLC** has moved into the community's business incubator, The Innovation Center of Hartford. The firm occupies about 3,800-square-feet and is engaged in the assembly and repair of small electrical components and mechanical supplies for the concrete industry. The company will create 4 new jobs.

HARTFORD – **Larpen Metallurgical Service**, a supplier of carbon products to the iron and steel industries in North America, has outgrown its 53,000-square-foot facility. The firm is planning a 25,000-square-foot addition to add warehousing space for its finished product materials. The company currently has 16 employees and plans to add more once the expansion project is completed.

HARTFORD – **Trade Tech Inc.** is moving its operation from Milwaukee to a new 5.54-acre site in the Dodge Industrial Park. The specialty metal fabricator has unveiled plans to build a 32,000-square-foot production facility and is already discussing adding up to another 60,000 square feet within the next three to five years. The firm currently has eight employees and plans to add another four by the time the new location is up and running.

JEFFERSON – **Jefferson Grain Processors LLC** plans to invest more than \$200 million into converting an existing malting plant into a multi-use facility. The complex would include the state's largest ethanol plant, a tilapia fish farm and a 55-megawatt cogeneration facility. The project would create 150 jobs.

LA CROSSE – **Kwik Trip**, a convenience store chain, plans to build a \$14 million, 70,000-square-foot commissary next to its existing distribution center. The company hopes to start construction next summer and finish the building in spring 2007. A variety of food items will be made at the new commissary and the expansion project will create 50 new jobs. The City of La Crosse will likely create a TIF district to assist the project.

MADISON – **Ale Asylum**, a new microbrewery and bottling facility, will locate on the city's east side. The firm has leased 7,800 square feet and will open in February 2006. Plans call for a tasting facility, lounge and deli-style restaurant, with seating for about 100 patrons. An outdoor eating area is also in the works.

MADISON – **Ancora Coffee Roasters** has spent \$1 million to buy and refurbish a 16,000-square-foot building on the east side of the city. The building, a converted former roller rink, will serve as the firm's corporate headquarters and be utilized for roasting and warehousing operations.

MADISON – **Covance** will benefit from a \$900,000 Transportation Economic Assistance grant from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. The grant will cover a portion of the costs to improve access to the firm's expanding facility. The company is investing \$57.75 million in the construction of a 240,000-square-foot expansion. The business is a contract research laboratory for the testing of new products for the pharmaceutical, biotech, medical and food additive industries.

MADISON – **Isthmus Engineering and Manufacturing**, a world-class designer and builder of custom, automated manufacturing equipment, has opened a new 68,000-square-foot facility. The firm was established in 1980 and recently celebrated its 25th Anniversary. The firm is organized as a worker's cooperative.

MADISON – **University Research Park** is investing \$1 million in a renovation at the MGE Innovation Center due to increased demand for incubator space. Twenty suites ranging from 700 square feet to about 1400 square feet will be added on the east side of the Innovation Center. The new suites will be ready to rent in early 2006 with both "wet" and dry laboratory space available.

MADISON – **WiCell Research Institute** has been selected by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to establish the federal government's first and only National Stem Cell Bank. The Institute was selected from a field of applicants in the U.S. and will receive a \$16 million award from NIH over the next four years. There are over 80 investigators studying human embryonic stem cells at the UW-Madison and the WiCell Research Institute.

MANITOWOC – **Heiden, Inc.**, a small manufacturer that specializes in aluminum and steel fabrication, is investing \$725,000 to purchase and install equipment. The project will create five new jobs and increase the firm's metal cutting capacity. The Wisconsin Department of Commerce will provide \$25,000 in Community Development Zone tax credits to assist the expansion.

MANITOWOC – **Tramontina USA Inc.**, a maker of sauté pans, stock pots and fry pans, expects to add 30 employees in 2006. The firm is leasing 300,000-square-feet in the former Mirro facility. The products made here are shipped to a distribution center near Houston and sold primarily in North America.

MENOMONEE FALLS – **Aquasensors, LLC** will receive a \$100,000 loan from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce Technology Venture Fund. The loan will bolster a \$500,000 expansion project that will create 16 new jobs. The firm designs and manufactures proprietary analytical measurement systems for industrial process control industries.

MILWAUKEE – **Degussa FreshTech Beverages L.L.C.**, a division of global specialty chemical manufacturer Degussa A.G. Dusseldorf, Germany, is opening a new location with five employees. The firm specializes in developing advanced packaging technology for the beverage industry. The company currently has plants in Germantown, Waukesha and Janesville.

MILWAUKEE – **DRS Power & Control Technologies**, a manufacturer of power generation, conversion and distribution equipment for ship propulsion systems, is planning a renovation project. The defense contractor will invest \$11.3 million in the modernization project that will add 80 jobs. The City of Milwaukee will provide \$1.5 million in aid through a tax increment finance district that is being established on a 22.7-acre site.

MILWAUKEE – **Frentzel Products Inc.**, a contract manufacturer with 25 employees, has purchased a vacant lot next to its current facility to allow for expansion. The company plans to invest \$900,000 in a 14,000-square-foot addition on to its building.

MILWAUKEE – **Manpower Inc.** has announced that it will move its headquarters to a new 280,000-square-foot building to be built in the downtown at RiverBend Place. The move will bring 900 jobs into the city with potential for an additional 300 new jobs created over the next five years. The project will cost \$87 million and include new construction, a parking structure and an extension to the Milwaukee Riverwalk. The four-story office building is scheduled to be completed in July 2007. The City of Milwaukee is providing \$25 million in assistance to the development. The firm is a global company providing permanent, temporary and contract recruitment, employee assessment, training, career transition and organizational consulting services.

MILWAUKEE – **Palermo Properties LLC** has received \$22 million in New Market Tax Credits and a \$750,000 loan from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce to assist in building a frozen pizza production facility. The plant will be located in the Menomonee River Valley; create more than 150 jobs and increase the firm's production capacity. The company will also relocate 85 jobs from its Illinois plant to the new operation as part of a consolidation.

MILWAUKEE – **Rock-Tenn Co.**, a manufacturer of folding cartons, is investing \$7.6 million in new equipment at its plant on the city's northwest side. The Wisconsin Department of Commerce has provided the company with a \$110,000 grant to train 15 new and 29 current employees to use the new equipment. The firm employs 200 at the plant.

MONROE – **Birchwood Klondike Cheese**, a producer of award-winning Feta, Brick, Muenster and Havarti cheeses, is investing \$6.1 million to construct a water treatment plant, and build and equip a new addition to its plant. The project will create five jobs and it is being assisted by \$137,800 in Agricultural Development Zone tax credits from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce.

NEENAH – **Bemis Co.**, a supplier of flexible packaging and pressure-sensitive materials, will be moving its corporate headquarters from Minneapolis to the city's downtown by May 2006. The firm's headquarters was in Minnesota for several decades but the company's chairman and other senior management had been located at an Oshkosh facility. The business employs 3,400 workers in Wisconsin at 12 plants across the state.

NEENAH – **Simmons Bedding Co.**, a producer of crib mattresses, changing pads, cradle pads and dressing table pads, has opened a new manufacturing facility. The 40,000-square-foot plant contains new equipment and employs 70, up from 53 at its former location in the Fox Valley.

NEW BERLIN – **ACS Group**, a maker of machinery for the plastics industry, is consolidating its operations in a new factory. The firm is moving into a new 190,000-square-foot flagship facility and hopes to hire 112 new workers for the expanded plant. The company is experiencing double-digit sales growth and needs added manufacturing capacity.

NEW GLARUS – **New Glarus Brewing Company** will expand its operations and add about a dozen jobs by 2007. The brewer of Spotted Cow will be moving into a new building on the south side of town that is expected to cost between \$8 million and \$12 million.

PLOVER – **The Aquaplex and Centre Lakes Development** is being built over the next two years on a 540-acre site. The \$107 million complex will include a 350-room hotel, 90,000-square-foot indoor water park, 75,000-square-foot convention center, 18-hole golf course and three man-made lakes. The three lakes will be home to an amphitheater designed to host major state, regional, national and international water skiing events.

PULASKI – **MCL Industries**, a manufacturer of electrical equipment for heavy-duty on/off road vehicles and heavy equipment manufacturers, is expanding. The firm is constructing a 22,000-square-foot addition to increase production capacity that will create 60 jobs. The business will receive an Industrial Bond Allocation totaling \$1,120,000 for the project.

RACINE – **Wisconsin Plating Works**, a company that provides electroplating and metal finishing, will receive \$42,000 in Community Development Zone tax credits from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. The credits will assist the creation of 14 jobs and generate \$500,000 in private investment.

RIPON – **Alliance Laundry** will close a plant in Florida next year and move production from that plant to its headquarter factory in Ripon. The transfer will add 250 jobs, including 200 hourly manufacturing jobs and 50 engineering, supervisory, technical service and procurement jobs. The firm makes clothes washer and dryers under the Speed Queen, Ajax, UniMac, and Huebsch brand names.

SPOONER – **Burns Best** has broken ground on a new \$3.3 million, 24,000-square-foot manufacturing plant that will create 78 jobs by 2008. The company produces low-emission outdoor furnaces that use a variety of inexpensive fuels like wood, pellets, coal and corn. The Wisconsin Department of Commerce is providing a \$500,000 CDBG-ED loan and the Washburn County EDC is providing a \$100,000 low-interest loan to help with the project. Production from the new facility began in November 2005.

TOWN OF STRONGS PRAIRIE – **Northern Bay Golf Resort and Marina** has broken ground on a large project in Adams County on Castle Rock Lake. The \$330 million investment will yield a 280-room hotel and 309 condominium units, a 300-acre site with an 18-hole golf course, a 50-slip marina, a 20,000-square-foot convention space, an indoor water park and spa, and a restaurant and convenience store. When completed next year, the complex will create 719 full and part-time jobs.

SUN PRAIRIE – **Mounds Pet Food Warehouse**, a pet supplier with stores in Madison, Middleton, Fitchburg and Janesville, will build a new 20,000-square-foot facility. The complex will house the firm's corporate headquarters and also act as its fifth retail location. The store is set to open in spring 2006 and will create 15 to 20 new jobs.

TWO RIVERS - **WG&R Mattress Factory** is constructing a 14,400-square-foot addition to its existing 40,000-square-foot facility. The expansion, slated for completion in January 2006, is expected to increase employment for the current staff of 15 as well as boost production by more than 50 percent.

WAUKESHA – **A to Z Printing Company**, a commercial printer, continues to grow with the purchase of its second \$2.5 million six-color Heidelberg Speedmaster CD-120 press. The investment in the new press brings total investment in equipment and plant expansion to \$11.5 million over the past two years.

WAUKESHA – **World Class Wire & Cable Inc.** has purchased a 105,000-square-foot building that doubles the size of its current manufacturing space. The firm, a wire distributor and manufacturer that sells wire to harness manufacturers, is financing the expansion with a \$2.3 million loan from the Wisconsin Business Development Finance Corporation. The company had added six employees due to the expansion project and will soon add more.

WAUPACA – **ABC Computers**, Wisconsin's largest provider of source-based accounting systems, will receive \$250,000 in Technology Zone tax credits through the Northeast Wisconsin Regional Economic Partnership Technology Zone. The company is investing \$1.8 million to equip and construct a new facility that will create up to 18 new jobs.

WAUPACA and MARINETTE – **Waupaca Foundry**, one of the largest independent foundries in the U.S., will receive a \$1 million Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and a training grant and tax credits totaling an additional \$950,000 from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. The training grant and tax credits will help the company invest nearly \$55 million in new equipment at its Waupaca facilities and create 60 new jobs. The CDBG will help the firm invest \$4.9 million on renovations at its Marinette facility.

WHITEHALL – **Whitehall Specialties, Inc.**, a maker of cheese and cheese substitutes, will open a second plant in the summer of 2006. The new facility will initially employ 30-40 people and up to 50 in the next two to three years. The firm has purchased a 12-acre parcel in the East Side Industrial Park and plans to build a 60,000-square-foot building. The new plant is expected to cost about \$5 million, not including equipment.

WISCONSIN DELLS – **Tanger Outlet Center**, a 264,000-square-foot outlet mall, is being built along Interstate 90-94. It will feature 65 brand-specific stores. Initial projections estimate the \$19 million facility will attract 3 million visitors annually, generate \$4 million in state sales tax revenue, \$600,000 in property tax revenue and create more than 200 jobs.

WISCONSIN DELLS – **Wilderness Hotel & Golf Resort** has announced plans for a \$150 million expansion project. The project will include a new lodge & banquet center, enclosed water park, a new 18-hole golf course, and a new Ice Age-themed Field Brothers' restaurant. The new lodge will feature 224 condo units and the new banquet center will cover 25,000 square feet.

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