



WISCONSIN'S GROWING

Business Expansion News Compiled by Forward Wisconsin

Second Quarter 2006

ABBOTSFORD – **Decorator Industries Inc.**, a manufacturer of sewn products for recreational vehicles, manufactured homes and the hospitality industry, is expanding. The firm has begun construction of a \$1.3 million plant in the city's industrial park. Twenty new jobs will be created as a result of the project and the company plans further expansion in the near future. The Abbotsford plant is home to the hospitality division and it manufactures window treatments and bedding products for hotel chains such as Hilton and Marriott.

BELGIUM – **Trimen Industries, Inc.**, a custom machining, industrial painting and finishing contractor, will expand and create 20 new jobs. The project, assisted by a \$3 million Industrial Revenue Bond allocation, will include a 22,000-square-foot facility addition and a total investment of \$3.2 million.

CASSVILLE – **Alliant Energy** has announced plans to build a 300-megawatt coal burning unit on the site of an existing power plant next to the Mississippi River. The unit would more than double the current size of the Nelson Dewey Generation Station and would provide enough power to light nearly 300,000 homes. If approved by the PSC, the company hopes to have the unit operating by 2012 or 2013.

CHILTON – **Buechel Stone Corp.** will receive a \$1 million loan from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce for a manufacturing expansion that could create as many as 113 jobs. The company quarries and manufactures building and landscape stone and it is a top producer of natural thin veneer stone. The loan will help the firm construct and equip a \$5.8 million, 62,000-square-foot office and production facility.

CLINTONVILLE – **Schutt Industries**, a producer of high-performance military and heavy duty commercial trailers and components, is expanding with the help of a loan from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. The company will receive a \$250,000 Community Development Block Grant – Economic Development Loan to assist with the purchase of new equipment and a plant expansion. The total investment for the project is over \$2 million and will include the creation of 65 new jobs and 20,000 square feet of new manufacturing space.

FITCHBURG – **Ancor Flexibles, Inc.** has been allocated up to \$250,000 in Technology Zone credits as well as an \$110,000 Customized Labor Training grant from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. The company, which is located in the Capital Ideas Technology Zone, is investing \$12.75 million to purchase and install new, state-of-the-art printing equipment and will create 35 new jobs with its expansion project.

FOND DU LAC – **Brenner Tank**, Wisconsin's largest manufacturer of stainless steel tanks is creating 75 new jobs. The Wisconsin Department of Commerce is providing \$310,000 in tax credits, through the Community Development Zone program, to assist the project. The pay range for the jobs will be between \$10 and \$20 an hour.

FRANKLIN – **Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company** is investing \$85 million to double the size of its campus at South 27th Street and West Drexel Avenue and create space for another 1100 employees. The facility is being expanded to accommodate job growth averaging about 200 new positions a year. Plans call for a six-story building containing 400,000-square-feet of space that will include offices, a training facility, cafeteria, and parking structure. Among jobs expected to be housed in the new building are information technology, support, service and managerial positions.

TOWN OF GENESEE, EAGLE & WHITEWATER – **Generac Power Systems** is hiring 200 full-time employees to meet increased demand for a new product line. The manufacturer of commercial and residential power generators will create positions in the light assembly, fabricating, welding and machining areas. The new jobs will be spread among plants in the Town of Genesee, Eagle and Whitewater.

GERMANTOWN – **J.W. Speaker**, a company that specializes in the custom design and manufacture of vehicle lighting systems, is expanding. The Germantown Village Board approved the sale of 25 acres to the firm in the village's business park for \$1.37 million. The business plans to break ground by fall on a 150,000-square-foot building.

GREEN BAY – **UnitedHealth Group** has announced the opening of a new call center that will create 1,000 new jobs in the city. The firm will invest in new technology and transform the former AMS headquarter building into a state-of-the-art call center that will provide customer service support. The business is a Fortune 50 company that offers employer-based and individual health care coverage options and a large range of Medicare offerings. The new jobs will be added throughout 2006 and 2007

GREEN BAY – **Wilcox Steel, LLC** will reopen the former Fort Howard Steel plant with the help of a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant-Economic Development loan from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. The company, a producer of cold-finished steel bars, will create 58 jobs over the next three years and invest \$8.2 million.

HARTFORD – **Mantz Automation** is building a 50,000-square-foot, \$3 million plant in the Dodge Industrial Park. The company manufactures plastic injection molds for appliance-makers throughout the Midwest. The expansion project, slated for completion in October 2006, will create 10 new jobs to bring total employment in Hartford to 70 people.

HOWARD – **Hattiesburg Paper Corporation** has received \$1 million in Enterprise Development Zone tax credits from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce to assist an expansion project. The paper converting plant produces a variety of products for the food service industry. The \$25 million project will add new technology, expand the plant's operations and add 150 new jobs by the end of the year.

HUDSON – **Eagle Packaging Inc.** has settled into its new 20,340-square-foot building in the St. Croix Business Park. The new location amounted to a \$1.3 million investment by the company. The firm boxes, bags, and wraps products in plastic for other firms. It also puts together kits, assembles products and reworks items that haven't been made correctly.

HUDSON – **Nor-Lake, Inc.**, a manufacturer and designer of refrigeration products and services, is investing \$5.5 million over the next three years in an expansion project. The project will include new and updated equipment as well as new software. The company plans to create 74 new positions. The firm is being assisted through the allocation of \$250,000 in Technology Zone tax credits from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce.

JANESVILLE – **United Alloy**, a producer of fabricated metal parts and components, will receive a \$50,580 Customized Labor Training grant award from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. The grant will train seven current workers and 17 new employees on new metal fabrication technologies.

LA CROSSE – **Kwik Trip**, a convenience store company, is investing \$14.7 million for construction of a 68,000-square-foot plant expansion. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is providing a \$375,000 Transportation Economic Assistance grant to the City of La Crosse to assist the project. The grant will help with road construction and infrastructure improvement to support the company's expansion that is expected to create 166 new jobs.

LANCASTER – **Woolwich Dairy**, one of Canada's largest goat cheese dairies, will build its new 30,000-square-foot U.S. headquarters on a five acre parcel in city's new industrial park. The company plans to break ground this fall and have the new facility open in the summer of 2007. The complex, which will initially employ 30 workers, includes plans for offices and a goat cheese production facility. The Wisconsin Dairy Business Innovation Center assisted the City of Lancaster and the company in partnering to locate in Wisconsin.

MADISON – **Dane County Regional Airport** will move forward with a \$4.9 million project to complete the first phase of an effort to expand the terminal parking apron for commercial aircraft. The project will also include the design of an enhanced system for capturing aircraft de-icing liquids. The apron expansion will provide about 20,000 square yards of additional space – enough for three commercial aircraft to maneuver and park.

MADISON – **Strand Associates**, a 60-year-old engineering company, has announced plans for a 39,000-square-foot addition to its home office. The expansion will provide space to add 110 employees to its staff of 330. The firm was founded in 1946 and has grown from a single location to 10 offices.

MADISON – **The Wisconsin Institutes of Discovery** has received a huge boost with a \$50 million private gift from UW-Madison alumni John and Tashia Morgridge. The \$50 million will be matched by another \$50 million from the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation. The State of Wisconsin has also committed \$50 million to the complex. The "twin" biomedical research and discovery institutes will include a public research institute on one end and a private center one on the other end, connected by an atrium.

MANAWA – **Sturm Foods**, a food packaging manufacturer, will invest \$10 million to expand its operation by adding two new production lines, creating 75 jobs. The project is being assisted by the City of Manawa, via a Wisconsin Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant – Public Facilities for Economic Development. The City of Manawa received the \$487,500 grant to upgrade its wastewater treatment plant. The upgrade will help the Sturm Foods' expansion.

MANITOWOC – **Manitowoc Co.**, a construction equipment maker, has signed a \$360 million contract with the U.S. Navy to build a new class of vessel. The Navy previously picked the company to build the Improved Navy Lighterage System – bargelike loading systems that can be assembled in floating patterns for deployment of cargo and vehicles between ships and land. The new contract calls for deliveries of these vessels – which can support up to 150 tons - over the next five years.

MANITOWOC and MARINETTE – **Manitowoc Co.** is part of a partnership that has been awarded a \$600 million, eight-year contract to build up to 350 vessels for the U.S. Coast Guard. The company's Marinette Marine Corp. division will perform much of the work at its shipyards in Marinette. The firm may add additional workers and estimate that company revenue from the contract will exceed \$300 million. Construction of the boats is scheduled to begin by late 2007 or early 2008 with the first boats delivered by mid-2008.

MARINETTE – **Beaver Creek Wood Products LLC** is buying the assets of another company and will also expand its production facility. The company currently employs four but plans to add ten more employees as a result of the project. The firm is a producer of bundled firewood and landscape mulch.

MENOMONEE FALLS – **Milwaukee Western Bank** plans to move its headquarters to the intersection of Appleton Avenue and Highway Q, while also changing its name to **MWBank**, to emphasize its regional status. The company will build a \$3 million, two-story, 10,000-square-foot office and hire five more employees after its move.

MILWAUKEE – **Alterra Coffee Roasters** will invest about \$4 million on new offices, a production facility and café in the city's Riverwest area. The firm will demolish the existing building on the site and hopes to complete a new building there by the summer of 2007. The Milwaukee Economic Development Corp. has already approved a \$1.44 million loan to assist the project. The company will add 25 new employees as a result of the expansion project.

MILWAUKEE – **Direct Supply Inc.** plans to add 1,000 to 1,500 new jobs over the next ten years at its expanded corporate headquarters. The \$85 million expansion on the city's northwest side will include more than 500,000 square feet of new offices and nine separate buildings on the company's campus will be linked by new multistory additions. The business is the country's largest supplier to the nursing home industry. The Wisconsin Department of Commerce is providing \$6 million in Enterprise Development Zone tax credits to assist the project. The City of Milwaukee is proposing the use of tax increment financing to help with the expansion.

MILWAUKEE - **GE Healthcare Technologies** is expanding its Tower Avenue plant on the northwest side to include more manufacturing space and an interactive showcase of its products. The business is investing about \$20 million to add 45,000 square feet to the existing 200,000-square-foot plant. The Tower Avenue plant makes bedside, wireless and blood pressure monitors and other patient monitoring devices.

MILWAUKEE – **HB Performance Systems**, a Mequon-based company that makes custom brakes for motorcycles, bicycles, snowmobiles and other non-automotive vehicles, is moving one of its operations from Indiana to Milwaukee. The company's Sun Component Systems division's relocation from Warsaw, Indiana, will create 25 jobs in the city. The \$1.78 million project will include the leasing of 50,000 square feet, as well as the purchase and installation of equipment. The Milwaukee Economic Development Corp. is providing a \$250,000 loan to the company to help finance the move.

MILWAUKEE – **PKWare Inc.** is proposing to add 3,800 square feet to its office located at 101 W. Wisconsin Avenue. The company, which makes software that compresses computer files, currently leases 14,500 square feet.

MILWAUKEE – **Trackside Services Inc.**, a manufacturer of brakes for railroad cars, is receiving a \$720,000 loan from the Milwaukee Economic Development Corp to help finance the purchase of a building. The company is investing \$1.8 million to buy a 253,000-square-foot facility at 5023 N. 35th Street. The company had previously leased space in another part of the city. The business has about 20 employees and plans to add more workers after the move.

NEENAH and NEW LONDON – **Bemis Co. Inc.**, a maker of flexible packaging, could create up to 500 jobs in the next few years, in part, due to \$3 million in tax credits from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. The firm will utilize the credits for training new employees on its machines, which require a high level of technical skill. The company has already begun doubling the size of one plant in New London and will hire additional workers there in the near future.

NEENAH – **Custom Marine** will relocate its facility within the city and double its manufacturing capacity. The \$5 million project will bring the firm's total manufacturing space to 95,000 square feet and create 30 new jobs over the next two years. The company sells custom stainless steel exhaust systems, mufflers and exhaust components to industrial manufacturers around the country. The City of Neenah has proposed a \$250,000 infrastructure upgrade, through the use of tax incremental financing, to assist the project.

NEW RICHMOND – **Spring Point Project**, a non-profit research organization, has begun construction on a hyper-clean building that will eventually house 88 special pigs that could help researchers find a cure for diabetes. Once the project gets FDA approval, the group will begin mass production of pigs that will be used for islet transplantation into humans. Researchers claim that pig islets have been successfully transplanted into monkeys and cured diabetes. The \$9 million, 21,000-square-foot building will be the first of its kind and is slated for a February 2007 completion.

OAK CREEK – Milwaukee Area Technical College will build a \$9 million center to teach new manufacturing technologies at its campus here. The college has received private sector commitments totaling \$4 million for the project and will issue \$5 million in bonds to cover the balance of the cost. The center, a 32,500-square-foot expansion of the campus, will be used to teach new processes for energy efficiency and technology in manufacturing.

OCONOMOWOC – The Prestwick Group Inc. is moving its corporate headquarters to a new building being constructed in the Commerce Center at Pabst Farms on a site near the intersection of Interstate 94 and Highway 67. The new complex will span 47,000 square feet, including a 38,000-square-foot manufacturing plant, on 5.8 acres. The firm makes and supplies custom golf course site furnishings and accessories.

OCONOMOWOC – ProHealth Care will invest up to \$41 million to renovate Oconomowoc Memorial and build a physicians center. The firm will renovate 80,000 square feet and build an additional 44,000 square feet at Oconomowoc Memorial. The physicians' center will involve constructing an 85,000-square-foot addition onto an existing facility in the Pabst Farms Corporate Center.

ONALASKA – Empire Screen Printing is planning to add 28 positions by the summer of 2007 and an additional 78 jobs by the summer of 2012, due to a 10,200-square-foot addition and new equipment. The company prints consumer products such as decals, labels, signs and name plates for appliances. The Town Board issued \$2.6 million in industrial revenue bonds to assist the expansion. The firm plans to break ground in July 2006 on the expansion and be in full production June 2007.

OSCEOLA – Thelen Graphics, Inc. has been allocated a Community Development Block Grant – Economic Development loan and an Industrial Revenue Bond package totaling \$1.75 million for construction of a new 35,000-square-foot addition to its existing manufacturing facility. The firm is a custom manufacturer specializing in silk-screen printing, die-cutting, laminating, plastic-forming, fabrication and assembly. The company, which will also be purchasing new equipment, will create 27 new jobs to its present workforce of 35.

OSHKOSH – Oshkosh Truck Corp. has been awarded a U.S Marine Corps contract worth up to \$740 million to build a fleet of armored combat trucks that could be used in Iraq and Afghanistan. Under the agreement, the firm will produce about 1600 of the trucks over a period of about six years. The first line of the new trucks, know as LVSRs or Logistics Vehicle System Replacements, will be delivered in May 2007 and will be more powerful and technologically-advanced than the current models.

OSHKOSH – Shallbetter Inc. has begun construction of a new 55,000-square-foot manufacturing facility and an attached two-story office complex. The structure will be located in Oshkosh's Northwest Industrial Park and is slated for full occupancy by the end of 2006. The company, which employs more than 50, is a custom manufacturer of medium and low voltage switch gear.

PARK FALLS – Flambeau River Papers, a new venture that will reopen the papermaking operation that closed here in April 2006, is receiving a \$4 million loan from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. The loan funds, which are coming from block grants and the development fund, will help an investor group bring back 300 employees to the facility by August 2006. The investor group has pulled together \$15 million to get the pulp and paper mill going again and they have already secured one major customer for the plant's products.

PESHTIGO – Marth Peshtigo Pellet has completed a 15,000-square-foot manufacturing plant in the Peshtigo Industrial Park. The project will create up to 15 jobs over the next two years. The company produces wood pellets from sawdust and wood shavings. The pellets can be used for animal cage bedding, landscaping, gardening and absorbing spillage. The Wisconsin Department of Commerce provided a \$250,000 infrastructure and equipment loan to assist the business.

PLEASANT PRAIRIE – **Uline**, a national shipping supply company based in Waukegan, Illinois, has signed a long-term lease for a 301,650-square-foot industrial building known as LakeView Ten in Lakeview Corporate Park. The building is located on a 23.5-acre site and the company plans to expand the building to a total of 602,376 square feet in the next year for operation as a strategic distribution center. The firm expects to employ 40 people at its new location once it is fully operational.

PLYMOUTH – **Electro Tech**, an electric motor repairing and service manufacturing company, is adding 4000 square feet to its existing facility. The new structure is located at 110 Rustic Avenue.

RACINE – **Modine Manufacturing Co.** is creating a new product group and consolidating R&D operations. The business specializes in thermal management systems and components. The new product group will target the HVAC needs of the truck and off-highway markets. As a result of the soon-to-be started group, the firm will relocate its Kentucky-based R&D facility to Racine and generate more positions in Wisconsin.

RIPON – **Ripon Foods, Inc.** is expected to create 100 new jobs over the next two years. The employment growth is being supported by \$3 million in Enterprise Development Zone tax credits and a \$55,000 training grant from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. The company has been producing Rippin' Good cookies in the city since 1930.

SOMERSET – **Preco, Inc.** is investing over \$2.6 million to purchase and install new equipment. The expansion project will create 35 jobs and is being assisted by \$250,000 in Technology Zone tax credits provided by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. The firm designs, manufactures, operates, and services laser processing systems for businesses in the aerospace, furniture, electronics and packaging industries.

SUSSEX – **Rexam**, a global container manufacturing company, will add 9,000 square feet to its 100,000-square-foot plant. The new innovation center will cost about \$1 million and will focus on designing new products and redesigning existing ones. The project will be completed by the end of the year.

UNION GROVE – **All Modes Logistics** of Park City, Illinois, has announced plans to move its corporate headquarters to the village's industrial park. The trucking warehouse company has purchased a 20-acre parcel for \$380,000 and plans to build an 11,000-square-foot office building and truck repair area. The project is expected to create up to 50 new jobs in the next few years.

WAUKESHA – **J.B. Kenehan** has received an Industrial Revenue Bond allocation totaling \$3.6 million for an expansion project that will create 36 new jobs. The project will include the purchase of a new web press and a total investment of \$4.675 million. The firm is a commercial printer that offers a full line of printing, finishing, mailing and distribution services.

WAUKESHA – **Profile Finishing Systems** is expanding into a 63,000-square-foot facility that will be used for industrial painting and finishing. The \$4.3 million project will create 42 jobs and it is being financed by an Industrial Revenue Bond allocation. The company also has an operation in Kaukauna that it will continue to operate.

WAUKESHA – **Wendall Manufacturing Inc.**, a metal fabrication company, is acquiring and rehabilitating a 43,500-square-foot portion of a facility at 1901 S. Prairie Avenue. The project, which will create 20 new jobs, is being assisted by up to a \$4 million Industrial Revenue Bond allocation. The business, which currently operates in a 98,500-square-foot plant, specializes in medium to heavy weldments providing component production from high carbon steel, stainless steel and aluminum.

WAUSAU – **Clover Industries**, a custom manufacturer and prototype developer of high-performance hydraulic and pneumatic cylinders, is constructing a new 68,000-square-foot facility. The building will include 9,000 square feet of office space with the remainder being dedicated to manufacturing. Numbers related to the project cost and new jobs created were not given by the company.

WAUSAUKEE – Wausauke Composites, Inc. will receive \$925,000 in Community Development Zone credits and a \$75,000 training grant from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce to assist a \$4.5 million plant expansion. The company is a leading manufacturer of highly-engineered composite plastic and fiberglass components for OEM customers. The expansion project is expected to add up to 224 jobs over the next three years.

WAUWATOSA – Children's Hospital and Health System Inc. has announced plans to add a 12-story, 425,000-square-foot wing to the west side of its hospital. The \$117 million project will add intensive care units, expand the Herma Heart Center, add 72 hospital beds and include room for an additional 72 beds in the future. Children's Hospital is a teaching hospital affiliated with the Medical College of Wisconsin and it is the only pediatric hospital in the Milwaukee metro area.

WEST BEND – Commerce State Bank will build a three-story office building on six acres of land to house its corporate headquarters. The bank will occupy 15,000 square feet of space on the first floor and lease the remaining space to tenants. Plans are for the bank to move into its new location by the end of 2007.

WEST BEND – West Bend Mutual Insurance Company will more than double the size of their corporate headquarters with a \$57 million expansion. The project will include a three-story, 194,000-square-foot office and support space addition, a separate 20,000-square-foot remote building with a central utility plant and a 450-stall, two-level parking structure. The expansion will bring the insurer's total space to nearly 350,000 square feet, with ability to accommodate 1100 employees. The project is scheduled for a July 2006 groundbreaking and an April 2008 completion.

WISCONSIN DELLS – Grand Cambrian Resort, a project of Cambrian Development, will begin construction this fall. The \$163 million water park resort will be built on 112 acres overlooking the Wisconsin River and will include more than 300 vacation condo rental units. The project will also feature a 35,000-square-foot indoor water park, an outdoor water park, 10,000 square feet of meeting room space, a restaurant and an arcade.

WITTENBURG – Nueske's Meats is investing \$7.5 million to expand its building by 25,000 square feet and create 148 jobs. The project is being supported by a \$219,000 Transportation Economic Assistance grant awarded to the Village of Wittenburg. The grant will be used to build two access roads near the specialty-smoked meat producer's soon-to-be expanded facility.

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