



Wisconsin's Growing

Business Expansion News



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Forward Wisconsin

Third Quarter 2007

ASHFORD (Town of) – **West Bend Machine Works**, a precision shop that manufactures OEM machine parts, has completed its move and transition to the former Ironsides Battery building. The company purchased the building in October 2006 and has been slowly moving its operation there. The firm currently employs 18 people and is considering adding a second shift CNC operator/programmer. Final renovation on the building itself should be completed by the spring of 2008.

BEAVER DAM – **Mayville Engineering Co. Inc.** and **Phoenix Coaters** - a division of **Mayville Engineering Co. Inc.** - have announced the purchase of a multi-million dollar, high-volume, production liquid coating system to be installed at their manufacturing facility. The new system, which will be fully-operational by the end of the year, will more than double the capacity of the plant and is expected to create several new jobs. Phoenix Coaters offers a full-range of coating services, including large capacity shot blasting, electro-coating, liquid painting, powder coating and value-added assembly.

BOWLER – **The Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe** has announced that construction is underway on a 300,000-square-foot complex that will include gaming, entertainment, conference space and a 150-room, full-service hotel. In addition, a 292,000-square-foot parking garage will be built for the new **North Star Casino & Bingo** operation. The project is scheduled for a fall 2009 completion timeframe and will replace the existing Mohican North Star Casino the tribe has operated since 1992. The new casino will create 200 new jobs when it is finished.

BRILLION – **Ariens Company** recently completed a \$6.5 million capital investment aimed at reducing delivery lead times for the company's walk-behind power equipment products. Four new powder-coating systems were installed and a new state-of-the-art production and engineering training facility was added, which includes 11,500-square-feet that will allow support teams to work in a centralized location. The firm is a leading manufacturer of outdoor power equipment for both consumer and commercial use, like lawn equipment and snow blowers.

CALEDONIA – **GAC Orthoworks**, a division of **Dentsply International**, plans to double the output of its laboratory and add about 25 employees at its 2525 Three Mile Road location. The orthodontics products lab currently has 45 employees and has been leasing 6,000 square feet of a 16,000-square-foot building. The firm has now bought the facility for \$1.4 million and will expand into the entire building.

CHIPPEWA FALLS – **WOW Logistics**, a provider of warehousing, handling and distribution services, has purchased over 18 acres of property in the Riverside Industrial Park, across from the firm's current site in the development. The company has begun construction of a 126,000-square-foot building that could be expanded to as large as 296,000 square feet, depending on the needs of their customers. The business currently has 20 employees in the city with additional employees to be hired upon completion of the project.

DENMARK – **Salm Partners** and **Professional Fabrications** are being assisted by a \$94,750 Transportation Economic Assistance grant provided by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to the village. The two companies are expanding and will create 195 new jobs. The grant covers a portion of the costs of constructing a new 800-foot-long road to serve as a truck access route for both companies. Salm Partners is constructing a 125,000-square-foot plant expansion with a total investment of \$34 million. Professional Fabrications is constructing a 20,000-square-foot plant expansion with a total capital investment of \$1.4 million.

EAU CLAIRE – **Minnesota Wire & Cable**, a manufacturer of cables for U.S. military and the electronics and medical industries, is buying the vacant Intek Plastics building in the Gateway West Industrial Park for a significant expansion. The firm has outgrown its other location in the city and will be adding 100 to 200 new positions after the move. The company currently employs 105 full-time and 30 part-time workers. In August, the business announced nearly \$10 million in mostly military-related contracts.

EAU CLAIRE – **The NanoRite Innovation Center** has officially opened next to the Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC). The 40,000-square-foot nanotech incubator and training facility includes a clean room, three large labs and six wet labs intended for entrepreneurs and early-stage companies, as well as microscopes and micromachining and nanoscience devices. The facility, connected to CVTC's Manufacturing and Technology Education Center, also features a metrology lab.

EVANSVILLE – **North Prairie Productions** is building a new soybean crush facility and biodiesel and glycerin production plant on 20 acres of farmland just south of Highway 14. The \$60 million facility is expected to produce nearly 45 million gallons of biodiesel from soybeans annually. The alternative fuel development firm will create 25 new jobs with annual salaries of about \$50,000 when the plant is completed. The Wisconsin Department of Commerce provided a \$125,000 Community Development Block grant to the City of Evansville to help extend a water main to the biodiesel facility.

FITCHBURG – **CDW Berbee**, a provider of hosting and technology services for information technology environments, has broken ground on a new enterprise data center and an office building. The facilities will double the firm's current capabilities and provide additional office space for its growing workforce. The buildings, scheduled for a 2008 opening, will total 70,000 square feet and will be located in the Fitchburg Technology Campus, near the company's corporate headquarters.

FORT ATKINSON – **Spacesaver Corporation** is putting on a 42,500-square-foot addition to its facility on the city's south side. The expansion will be used for the manufacture of metal fabrication projects. In June 2007, the company completed a 13,000-square-foot expansion that will bring 12 new jobs to the area. In April 2007, the business landed a five-year, \$129.4-million contract from the U.S. military to produce weapons and cabinets. The firm is a leading manufacturer of high-density mobile storage and filing system, as well as steel shelving and related accessories.

GLENDALE – **Johnson Controls Inc.** is undertaking a \$45 million upgrade and expansion of its international headquarters that will be a prototype for sustainable environmental design. The company, a leader in manufacturing heating and cooling controls for buildings, is expecting to add 200 to 400 jobs as a result of the project. The plans call for three new structures: an amenity building with a cafeteria and fitness center; an office building; and, a parking garage. Energy conservation measures such as green roofs, solar panels, wind turbines and even a geothermal field are planned.

GRAFTON – Advanced Healthcare is adding to space at its Cedar Creek Clinic with an \$8 million building scheduled to open in the fall of 2008. Construction on the 37,200-square-foot clinic began in September and additional doctors and staff will be hired following the building's completion. The existing clinic, which will be demolished, now houses 15-20 doctors who practice there one or two days a week. Specialties conducted at the clinic currently include allergy, dermatology, orthopedic, pediatrics, podiatry, general surgery, urgent care, urology, obstetrics, gynecology and ear, nose and throat. More specialties will be added when the new facility is finished.

GREEN BAY – WS Packaging Group, one of the largest printing and label converting operations in North America, will bring its world headquarters to the University Heights Business Park. The new facility will be located on 5.7 acres in the city's new 1000-acre business park, which is located off Wisconsin 54/57. The \$4 million, 20,000-square-foot building project will employ about 65 people and should be completed by May 2008.

HOWARD – Zepnick Solutions has received \$200,000 in Technology Zone tax credits from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce to assist its expansion project that will create 14 new jobs. The company engineers, designs and fabricates packaging lines for the paper and food industries. The \$860,000 expansion project will include leasing a newly-constructed building that will house 34 engineers and designers as well as a 3,000-square-foot assembly and testing space.

KENOSHA – Panatoni Development Company, a privately-held California-based development firm, is proposing a 1.5 million-square-foot project that will include light manufacturing, warehouse and distribution space. The \$75 million development is starting with a 626,000-square-foot speculative industrial building on 38 acres at 10100 58th Place that will be completed in December. The business also plans to put up a 650,000-square-foot speculative building in 2008 and has two parcels being marketed to build-to-suit clients that will generate two 150,000-square-foot industrial buildings.

KENOSHA – Rust-Oleum will build a 600,000-square-foot warehouse and distribution center on a 70.5-acre site at the northeast corner of 52nd Street and 88th Avenue. Plans show that the building could be expanded in the future by another 250,000 square feet. Construction began in July and the structure should be completed by August 2008. The facility is expected to employ 60 to 125 workers, depending on the time of the year. The company manufactures protective paints and coating for residential and industrial markets.

KIEL – Sargento Foods has announced its intention to add 60,000 square feet to its facility located in the Persnickety Parkcity industrial park. The \$8 million project is needed to expand manufacturing capacity at the plant, which produces Sargento and control brand snacks, portion control shredded natural cheese and frozen appetizers. The company plans to add 100 new jobs at the site over the next 3-5 years. The business last expanded the plant in 2000 when it added 40,000 square feet.

KIEL – Stoelting, LLC and PolarWare Company have received approval for a \$3.15 million industrial revenue bond allocation to support the ongoing construction of a new addition at Stoelting's manufacturing site in the city. The 120,000-square-foot expansion will nearly double the size of the manufacturing space and will bring the resources of Stoelting and PolarWare together in one location. Once completed, the facility will be used by PolarWare to build stainless steel food service and industrial products, while Stoelting will manufacture food service equipment, cheese and dairy processing equipment and industrial cleaning equipment in the facility.

LA CROSSE – Custom Metal Fabricating has received \$54,000 in tax credits from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce's Community Development Zone tax credit program to aid in an expansion project. The company, a manufacturer of structural steel products and specialty items, is leaving its current facility and will invest \$2.1 million to construct a larger building. The project will create 12 new jobs.

LA CROSSE – **Logistics Health Incorporated** will receive \$1.75 million in Enterprise Development Zone Tax Credits from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce to assist the company in creating 350 new jobs – nearly doubling the firm's current workforce. The business is a leading provider of military readiness, primary care, occupational health, homeland security and emergency preparedness services. The state tax credits will leverage a \$19 million investment by the company including \$14 million for the construction of a new building and \$5 million for new equipment purchases.

MADISON – **Danisco**, a Danish producer of food ingredients, is building a 19,200-square-foot ultra-cold storage and packaging facility at 3322 Agriculture Drive. The expansion, which will house frozen dairy cultures, is part of a larger expansion began last year with the construction of research labs and new offices. The business has increased employment from 83 to 125.

MADISON – **Mentor Corporation** is building a \$24 million, 37,000-square-foot manufacturing facility in the University Research Park at the corner of Whitney Way and Research Park Boulevard. The biotech firm is the maker of Purtox, an anti-frown line compound that competes with Botox. The development of Purtox comes from the company's 2003 deal for an exclusive license from the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation. The Santa Barbara, California-based Fortune 500 company expects to create 35 new jobs once the structure is completed in the summer of 2008.

MADISON – **SAFC** is planning a \$4.5 million capacity expansion for its **SAFC Pharma** facility in the city. This comes on the heels of a \$12 million expansion project in 2006. The company is the manufacturing group within **Sigma-Aldrich** that focuses on high-purity inorganics for high-technology applications, cell culture products and services for biopharmaceutical manufacturing and biochemical production.

MENOMINEE – **The R.W. Fernstrum Company** is adding another 8,000 square feet to its 22,000-square-foot facility at 1716 11th Avenue. The firm has doubled its production staff in the past year and will likely add another 10 jobs after the expansion is completed. The business has plans to bring in more modern equipment to increase efficiency and expand production capability. The company makes “keel coolers” – a large rectangular series of pipes with an intake and outtake pipe. The product is used primarily to cool engines and large equipment on watercraft.

MILWAUKEE – **Boyle Fredrickson**, one of the state's largest intellectual property firms, has moved to a 13,000-square-foot office building along the Milwaukee River. The law firm purchased the facility for \$1.2 million and has invested \$1 million in renovation. The Milwaukee Economic Development Corp. provided a \$500,000 loan to assist the project and the move to 840 N. Plankinton Avenue.

MILWAUKEE – **Gestra Engineering Inc.** has received a \$75,000 Wisconsin Department of Commerce's Blight Elimination and Brownfield Redevelopment program grant to redevelop a brownfield site for its new headquarters. The company, a provider of geotechnical, structural, pavement and construction materials for engineering services, is moving to the 1600 block of West Fond du Lac Avenue. The firm will add eight jobs once it completes the \$345,000 redevelopment project.

MILWAUKEE – **HellermannTyton** is closing its Florida plant as part of a plan to make room for growth in Milwaukee. The company will be adding nearly 100 jobs later this year at its main factory and North American headquarters located at 7930 N. Faulkner Road. The business has also purchased a 35,000-square-foot facility near its corporate headquarters to make room for future expansion. The Wisconsin Department of Commerce has awarded the company up to \$548,000 in tax credits to aid the \$8 million expansion project. The firm manufactures cable ties and accessories, transportation and heavy equipment fasteners, wiring duct, surface raceways, connectivity products, wire managers and accessories, and identification products.

MINERAL POINT – Premier Cooperative has broken ground on a new state-of-the-art feed manufacturing facility on a 15-acre site in the city's business park. In addition to the manufacturing section of the new multi-million dollar facility, the location will have over 60 different product bins, 15,000-square-feet of office, warehouse and retail space, plus a 30,000-gallon propane tank. The cooperative is the oldest of its kind in the U.S. and is owned and operated by members throughout southwest Wisconsin, northern Illinois and eastern Iowa.

MOUNT PLEASANT – HSA Commercial, a Chicago real estate firm, is planning to create a 90-acre business park in the village and will start the project with two speculative buildings. One spec building will be 250,000 square feet and the other will be 100,000 square feet. The development, which will be known at the **Mount Pleasant International Commerce Center**, will face Wisconsin Highway 20 east of Interstate 94 at Racine County Highway V.

OAK CREEK – Corporate Express, a national office supplier, has moved into a new 280,000-square-foot facility in the Oakwood Crossings Business Center. The building, which is the second facility put up in the business center, was designed for a potential future addition of about 52,000 square feet. The structure features 240,000 square feet of warehouse space plus 25,209 square feet of office space and 238 parking spaces.

OAK CREEK – Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin & Metropolitan Chicago is building a 140,000-square-foot headquarters on a 14-acre site at 140 East Rawson Avenue. Roughly one-third of the new building will be dedicated to administrative offices and the remainder will house a work and training facility. The \$10 million project would include relocating a 130-member administrative staff from another location. Construction will begin by the spring of 2008 with completion in early 2009. Over 400 people will be working in the new building.

OCONOMOWOC – Oconomowoc Manufacturing Corporation, a maker of custom ball bearings and relate products, is planning an expansion. The firm has purchased the former Sentry Equipment Corporation building at 856 Armour Road to gain more manufacturing space. The City of Oconomowoc has approved a \$3.5 million industrial revenue bond allocation to help with the purchase of equipment and the building.

OCONTO – Cruisers Yachts is adding 50-75 people to its workforce as it prepares for new boat models and brings production lines from North Carolina. The company began searching for new employees in August and hopes to have the additional manufacturing positions filled by January 2008. The firm decided earlier this year to move production of motor yachts and sedan bridge yachts from North Carolina to help streamline manufacturing. That action, combined with the production of new models, will boost the firm's total workforce by about 10 percent.

PEWAUKEE – Harken, Inc., a sailboat hardware and accessory manufacturing firm, will build a new, 100,000-square-foot facility to increase efficiency in its operations. The structure will allow the company to consolidate from four buildings to one, and will help to increase the workforce and add more advanced equipment. The business is currently seeking sites around the City of Pewaukee for its new facility.

PEWAUKEE – Peterbilt Wisconsin & Illinois is moving its corporate headquarters one mile west of its current location to accommodate its growth. The new 4,000-square-foot space at 2835 North Grandview Boulevard will allow the business to put all its management and support personnel in one place. About 15 employees have moved into the new headquarters so far. The company is one of the largest networks of medium and heavy-duty truck dealerships in the Midwest.

PLATTEVILLE – **American Customer Care** opened a call center in August that employed about 50 at start-up with plans now to add at least another 25 to 50 employees. The company is housed in the Cobalt Building the formerly housed Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Founded in 1986, the firm currently operates ten customer contact centers with over 2000 employees, 1800 web-enabled workstations, and 2000 Interactive Voice Response (IVR) ports located throughout Connecticut, Iowa, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin.

PORT WASHINGTON – **Manitowoc Crane Group** is investing \$7.4 million to expand its 50,000-square-foot factory by 23,000 square feet. The addition will house a new machining center and painting operation for the crawler crane manufacturer. The project will create 25 new jobs when it is completed in 2008. Once the expansion is finished, the factory will be responsible for building the entire lower portion of Manitowoc's new Model 16000 crane.

RIPON – **Ripon Pickle** has been granted a \$100,000 loan from Ripon's Revolving Loan fund to assist a \$2.55 million expansion that will create 10 new jobs. The firm manufactures pickles, pickled peppers, pickle relish and vegetables. The investment will provide the business with additional working capital and it will also include the purchase of two new forklifts.

RIVER FALLS – **American Test Center** is relocating its operations from White Bear Lake, Minnesota to the Whitetail Ridge Business Park. The firm is building a 12,000-square-foot facility along Prairie Drive that will include about 6,500 square feet of lease space. The company began in 1950 as a R&D test center for American Hoist and Derrick. The firm provides annual safety test and inspection of mobile lift equipment on a nationwide basis.

RIVER FALLS – **Interfacial Solutions LLC.**, a developer of products and technologies for the plastics industry, will receive \$207,600 in tax credits from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce's Technology Zone program to support a \$1.8 million expansion project. The company is building a 15,000-square-foot lab and office facility in the Whitetail Ridge Corporate Park that will include new equipment. The new facility will provide additional laboratory characterization, compounding, and co-extrusion capabilities. The project is expected to create 11 new jobs.

ROTHSCHILD – **Shuette Metals** is building a \$7.5 million, 76,500-square-foot addition to its plant. The project is expected to create up to 75 new jobs and the move could nearly double the workforce in the coming years as a result of the company's sustained growth since 2000. The company produces stainless steel and powder-coated steel and aluminum products. The new jobs will include skilled-trade positions, such as welders and machinists.

SUSSEX – **Power Test Inc.**, a maker of engine dynamometers, has purchased a 58,000-square-foot building on Silver Spring Drive that was previously occupied by **Sterling Machine Tool & Manufacturing Co.** The plant, about double the size of the company's current facility, is located on a 15-acre parcel that allows room for future expansion. The \$3.5 million purchase and renovation project is being funded by industrial revenue bonds issued through the Village of Sussex. The business plans to move into the building in November 2007 and expects to add at least 16 new jobs over the next three years.

SUSSEX – **Waukesha State Bank** has started construction on a new branch at the intersection of Highway 164 and Silver Spring Drive. The 5,000-square-foot bank is expected to open in the spring of 2008 and will be the company's 12th full-service branch. In addition to retail, commercial and lending, the branch will have a community room that will be available to Sussex community groups.

VERONA – **Coating Place**, a firm that specializes in coating or encapsulating prescription and over-the-counter medicine for pharmaceutical companies, has begun a major expansion. The business is adding 85,000 square feet of warehouse and production space via a two-story building project. The firm expects to add 40-45 workers in the next two years to its current 85-person workforce. The addition is scheduled for completion in July or August 2008.

VERONA – **Park Printing House** has broken ground on a 35,000-square-foot expansion that will double the company's size by November 2007. The commercial printing firm, which currently employs about 65 people, will invest \$1 million to open up its ability to print larger items. The company has already invested \$5 million over the past five years on equipment upgrades to stay current on new technology. More workers will likely be hired due to the expansion.

WATERLOO – **Van Holten**, a pickle company, has opened a new 53,000-square-foot building that includes administration, manufacturing, packaging, and warehousing space. The \$4.5 million project began in August 2006. The new state-of-the-art facilities include the latest production machines that do most of the 12 steps involved in creating a Van Holten pickle. The firm produces 96,000 pickles a day and sells about 17 million per year.

WAUSAU – **Wausau Window and Wall Systems** will consolidate its headquarters and manufacturing operation in one building to be located in the city's west side industrial park. Construction of the 370,000-square-foot, \$19 million development is scheduled to begin in October with completion slated for August 2008. The city, via \$2.9 million in tax increment financing, will pay for excavating and other work associated with preparing the 51-acre site for construction. The company produces commercial window and curtain-wall products.

WEST BEND – **Gehl Company** will build a new office building for its headquarters and renovate a separate structure to be used as a research-and-development center as part of a \$20 million expansion. The State of Wisconsin is providing the firm a \$1 million low-interest loan. In addition, the City of West Bend is being provided a \$700,000 Brownsfields Grant for environmental remediation and a Transportation Economic Assistance grant of \$300,000 for roadway improvements to assist the project. The City of West Bend and Washington County are providing incentives totaling more than \$5 million. The business, a manufacturer of construction and agricultural equipment, will add 87 new jobs over the next four years due to the expansion.

WISCONSIN – **American Transmission Co.** has invested more than \$1 billion in capital to improve the electric grid in Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan during its first six years of operation. Construction projects include building more than 800 miles of new or upgraded high-voltage lines and connecting more than 2,000 megawatts of new generation to the grid. Some of the larger projects under construction include the 220-mile Arrowhead-Weston line between Duluth and Wausau and two 50-mile lines stretching between Wausau and the Shawano area and Oconto Falls and New London. Plans are underway for a major addition to the system to accommodate growth in Dane County, and another line (Paddock-Rockdale) that will provide an additional interstate connection. The primary purpose of the Paddock-Rockdale project is to give local distribution utilities improved access to lower cost power from other areas in the region and bring it into Wisconsin. While this project is largely driven by economics, it also benefits electric consumers with a stronger, more stable electric system. Some of the improvements also will lay important groundwork for helping the state meet goals of providing more electricity from renewable power generated across the Midwest.

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – **Advanced Fiberglass Technologies Inc.** is investing \$5 million to build a 66,000-square-foot plant expansion. The company manufactures tanks, piping, storage vessels, ductwork and tank covers. The project is being aided by a \$256,650 Transportation Economic Assistance grant provided to the city by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. The project is expected to create 78 new jobs.

WOODVILLE – **iMark Molding, LLC.** has added 15,000 square feet to its existing 20,000-square-foot production facility and office. The project includes two new molding machines, more clean room space and a new tool room area that will allow the firm to fabricate prototype molds. Over \$4.5 million will be invested in the expansion over the next three years and 10 new injection-molding jobs will be created. The company's growth is being driven by growth in its medical products business.