



# Wisconsin's Growing

Business Expansion News



Compiled by  
Forward Wisconsin

## Fourth Quarter 2007

**BELOIT — Kettle Foods** began construction on a 100,000-square-foot facility in Beloit's Gateway Business Park. The Alliance Development Corporation handled the logistics of this project. In addition to this development, Alliance has also announced its intentions to construct a separate 100,000-square-foot speculative distribution and manufacturing facility adjacent to their Kettle project.

**BELOIT — PK Development** began construction on their speculative manufacturing and distribution facility, located in Beloit's I-90 Business Park. Initial build-out is projected at 40,000 square feet, with expansion capabilities to reach a 100,000-square-foot footprint.

**BELOIT — Serta Mattress Company** announced its intentions to add another 60,000 square feet onto its 140,000-square-foot production facility in Beloit's I-90 Business Park. This \$2 million project, which also includes an additional real estate purchase, will result in the creation of 30 new employment positions.

**BURKE (Town of) — Gander Mountain** is coming to the interchange of Highway 51 and Interstate 39-90-94. One of the largest Gander Mountain stores in the nation; it is scheduled to open this spring and could help transform the interchange into more than just a spot for diesel fuel, chili and a soda. The 90,000-square-foot store will replace the smaller Gander Mountain at East Towne and will be joined by a 24,000-square-foot Camper World.

**BURLINGTON — RexCon LLC** announced it will move from Milwaukee and build a new 100,000-square-foot plant in the City of Burlington's Manufacturing & Office Park. The manufacturer of products used in the road building industry has been leasing 140,000 square feet of space on Milwaukee's northwest side near Good Hope Road and Teutonia Avenue. The company's lease will soon expire, and the firm conducted a search for its best option for a new site in southeastern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. The company, which had \$30 million in sales last year, estimates that it will need to fill more than 50 new jobs at its new location.

**CLINTONVILLE — Utility Tool and Trailer** welcomed Congressman Steve Kagen to tour their facilities after Kagen helped to secure \$2.4 million for the company to continue building smaller, versatile trailers for the United States Army. Utility Tool and Trailer will receive \$800,000 to construct smaller and more versatile high performance aluminum military trailers and \$1,600,000 to demonstrate combat vehicle and advanced automotive technologies. "These contracts will help our businesses remain on the cutting edge of technology and create higher-wage jobs here in Northeast Wisconsin," said Congressman Steve Kagen. "Wisconsin has led the world in research and technology, and we will continue that tradition in the 21st century".

**EAU CLAIRE — Independent Network**, part of the Communications Management Group, has opened a 4,200-square-foot data center that includes a regional fiber optic network. In addition to providing physical space for IT equipment, the WIN data center will operate a 2,500-mile fiber optic network throughout the region. It is designed to securely connect back to the site customers in 50 cities in four Midwestern states. The center's first tenant is Airstream Communications, an Internet service organization that is a sister company of WIN. Both organizations are part of Communications Management Group, LLC, which is owned by 31 independent telephone companies.

**FORT ATKINSON — Spacesaver Corp.** announced that it has acquired two product lines from Leggett & Platt Inc. and will add 45,000 square feet to its Fort Atkinson manufacturing facility to build new products. Expansion is scheduled to be completed by mid-2008. The latest expansion at the Fort Atkinson operation follows the June announcement of a 13,000-square-foot plant build-out to accommodate expansion of specialized storage products. The company manufactures for the public safety and law enforcement industries, which are among numerous markets the company serves. Spacesaver expects to hire additional employees as part of its continued growth, although an exact number of new hires has not been determined.

**HUDSON — River Bluffs Business Center**, located in Hudson's St. Croix Business Park, wrapped up construction in November and is ready for companies that are exploring office, production or warehouse space. The project's 'phase one' footprint contains 35,000 square feet and a future phase will add an additional footprint of 15,000 square feet on the north end. Candidate companies for space include corporate headquarters, medical, bio-tech, prototype fabrication, warehousing and distribution.

**JANESVILLE — D&K Coatings**, a global manufacturer of thermal and pressure sensitive films, equipment and finishing solutions is expanding their existing Janesville facility by 19,500 square feet. This expansion will increase D&K's manufacturing capabilities and capacities.

**JANESVILLE — Helgesen Development Corporation** is preparing to construct a 250,000-square-foot manufacturing and warehousing facility. In response to the low volume of vacant industrial space, this \$7.5 million spec facility will assist with meeting the growing demands of Janesville's diversifying economic base.

**JANESVILLE — Humane Manufacturing** is constructing a 20,200-square-foot addition to their manufacturing facility. This addition will allow Humane to expand their manufacturing operations and will house a related company Global Rubber, Inc. Humane is located on Janesville's south side and manufactures rubber mats from recycled and revulcanized tire rubber.

**JANESVILLE — Prent Corporation**, a global designer and manufacturer of custom thermoformed plastic applications that serve the medical, electronic and consumer markets, is adding 26,250 square feet its existing Janesville campus. This new tooling facility continues to cement Prent's commitment locally, which spans 40 years.

**KENOSHA — Monarch Plastics**, which opened in Kenosha in 1983, recently completed a 39,000-square-foot expansion of its headquarters and manufacturing plant at 1205 65th Street. The project added 4,000 square feet of office space and another 35,000 square feet to its manufacturing facility. Monarch is a custom blow molding company, making plastic bottles and containers for customers that include personal care, household products, automotive and food industries. SC Johnson is among the company's biggest customers. The most recent expansion, which included building on property formerly owned by the American Brass company, brings the headquarters and manufacturing plant to nearly 170,000 square feet.

**KENOSHA — StoneFire Pizza Co.** has plans to open a new location off Hwy. 50 in Kenosha in 2008. Construction began in October. According to StoneFire's assistant sales manager Karen Hubbard, the new facility will be larger than the New Berlin location. StoneFire Pizza Co. is a national chain and an upscale version of Chuck E. Cheese, with bowling, rock climbing, bumper cars, video games and more. The New Berlin location opened in late 2006, which has the capacity to accommodate 750 people and has 225 employees.

**KIEL — Stoelting, LLC** in Kiel is nearing completion of a major expansion project. It will allow the manufacturing facility to house both Stoelting, LLC and its sister company Polar Ware. The result of the expansion is expected to preserve approximately 190 jobs in Kiel and add another 110 new jobs in relocating employees from the former Sheboygan site for Polar Ware Co. Approximately 10 percent of the cost of this expansion projects is coming from the City of Kiel. Under the terms of the agreement, the City of Kiel will provide a development grant of \$350,000 to the industry.

**LOYAL — Vita Plus** broke ground on a \$200,000 facility to expand its dry fertilizer manufacturing capabilities. The increased production ability and capacity for mixes, which are customized for each farm, will benefit producers and growers throughout the Loyal market area. Vita Plus, an employee-owned company, has a staff of more than 40 people who serve livestock and crop producers.

**MADISON — Stratatech Corp.** of Madison announced that it has received another federal grant, this one a \$975,000 Fast-Track SBIR Grant from the National Institute on Aging. The grant will enable Stratatech to continue its work to develop a new manufacturing process and related technology for use in the production of its skin tissue products. Stratatech's flagship product, StrataGraft skin tissue, is being evaluated in a clinical trial for the treatment of burns and other severe skin trauma.

**MADISON — Virent Energy Systems** has received a \$2 million Advanced Technology Program grant from the National Institute for Standards and Technology, which is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce. The money will help fund Virent's efforts to find more efficient ways to break down agricultural waste products into sugars that can be converted into biofuels.

**MANITOWOC — Manitowoc Crane** announced a 57,000-square-foot expansion to their crane manufacturing plant. About 70 jobs will be added to the Manitowoc facility once the expansion is complete. More than 1,000 people are employed by Manitowoc Crane in Wisconsin, according to Steve Brahm, vice president of operations for Manitowoc's crane division. The project is part of a \$25.7 million expansion of the company's Wisconsin facilities. Manitowoc Crane officials announced plans in August to expand the Port Washington fabrication facility.

**MEQUON — Insight Development Group** has plans to become the first to build in the new Mequon Town Center with a \$16 million mixed-used residential and commercial project. Insight's proposed development includes the renovation of the former Zimmerman and Jung Brewery near Mequon Road and Buntrock Avenue. The 129-year-old former brewery would be converted into a restaurant, brewery, coffee shop and offices. First phase of the project will include the construction of condominiums and preparing the site for future development, said Zader. The second phase will involve the build out of an estimated 7,200 square feet of retail space in the Brewery building. The third phase of the project, which could take up to five years to complete, will include construction of a two-story, 36,000-square-foot office building.

**MIDDLETON — T. Wall** attracts big investment from N.Y. firm. A New York equity fund has invested \$110 million in Middleton-based T. Wall Properties, putting the commercial developer on a fast track to significant growth. With 2.4 million square feet of office space and more than 750 acres of land in its portfolio, T. Wall Properties already is one of the state's largest commercial developers.

**MILTON — Freedom Graphics Systems, Inc.**, headquartered in Milton, WI, began constructing their 100,000-square-foot production, office and warehouse facility to compliment their existing corporate headquarters presence. Upon completion, this facility will be one of the growing anchors that populate the City's 59 Business Park. Rich Greene, Vice President of Freedom Graphic Systems, praised the City for their efforts. "The City of Milton is aggressive with its economic development opportunities, which is a significant part of our decision to expand here," remarked Greene.

**MUSKEGO — GE Healthcare** is proposing a 485,000-square-foot distribution center in Muskego, a facility that would shift 125 jobs to that Waukesha County community from Cudahy. The building is planned for 35 acres south of W. College Ave. and west of Moorland Road. It would be used to distribute GE Healthcare products throughout the world and would consolidate the company's distribution facilities that now operate at Ace Industrial Park, in Cudahy.

**MILWAUKEE — C&D Technologies** has decided to add roughly 50 new engineers over the next four to five years in Milwaukee to research and develop its lithium-ion rechargeable batteries. If successful, the company will hire another 100 people and invest \$10 million buying new equipment and building another 50,000 to 80,000 square feet of manufacturing space. It plans to have all 150 new jobs in place by 2014. Milwaukee hosts one of the five U.S. manufacturing facilities owned by the Philadelphia-based company. The company just landed \$800,000 from the U.S. Army budget to pay for its research starting in 2008, said Jay Frankhouser, director of emerging technologies for C&D Technologies.

**MILWAUKEE — The Harley-Davidson Museum** project will receive a \$1.25 million brownfield grant from the state to support environmental remediation efforts at the Milwaukee site. The museum is being constructed on a 20-acre brownfield site in the Menomonee River Valley. The grant from the Department of Commerce will support environmental remediation costs. The museum will feature exhibit space, as well as a restaurant, retail shop, meeting space and special events facilities. The museum is expected to attract 350,000 visitors each year, generate an estimated \$78 million in annual spending to grow the local economy and bring in more than \$12.3 million in annual state and local tax revenue.

**MILWAUKEE — Marcus Theatres Corp.**, a division of The Marcus Corp., announced it has signed an agreement to purchase a portion of Paul Silk Film Buying Co. of Minneapolis, Minn. Under an agreement, Marcus Theatres will perform film buying services for 15 locations owned by five exhibitors, representing 152 screens located in Minnesota. Services will include film buying, booking and other related responsibilities and management services.

**MILWAUKEE — Maures Development Group LLC**, broke ground on a \$5.1 million mixed-use project at North Teutonia Avenue and West Center Street. The project includes a 43,500-square-foot building with retail and commercial space on the ground floor and 24 apartment units on the second floor. Maures Development is the first minority- and woman-owned development firm to receive Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority affordable housing tax credits to help finance its project.

**MILWAUKEE — Rexnord LLC** announced that its Zurn Industries LLC affiliate has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire the stock of Pennsylvania-based GA Industries Inc. (GAI) for \$76 million in cash. The acquisition is expected to close in the first calendar quarter of 2008 and will expand Rexnord's strategic water management platform, which was created with the company's acquisition of Zurn Industries in February 2007. Rexnord anticipates funding the acquisition within its existing credit facilities. The acquisition further expands Zurn's presence in water and wastewater markets in municipal, hydropower, and industrial environments.

**MILWAUKEE — Chicago-based RSC** plans to build a Hyatt Place Hotel, Hyatt Summerfield Suites and 100 luxury apartments and five town homes in the former Park East Freeway corridor. Milwaukee County announced the closing of the sale of the first parcel, which is located on the north end of downtown Milwaukee. The 2.1-acre site sold for \$2,725,000. The development will add \$65 million to the property tax base of Milwaukee County and will provide a significant number of jobs for area residents.

**NEW BERLIN — InPro Corp.** plans to move its decorative surfaces manufacturing operations to a new leased factory in the New Berlin Industrial Park from an existing plant in Menomonee Falls. InPro has entered into a six-year lease for a 70,000-square-foot facility, which is located near North Calhoun Road and West Rogers Drive. All 30 employees at the decorative-surfaces business will retain their jobs. InPro manufactures two lines of decorative surfaces products—Prismbrand Solid Surface and Lippcrt-brand Cultured Marble, two materials used in kitchen and bath construction and remodeling. The new plant will allow InPro to boost production capacity by as much as 400 percent.

**OCONOMOWOC — Pabst Farms** commercial and residential development group announced that it has selected Ohio-based Developers Diversified Realty Corp. to develop the project's regional mall. The one million-square-foot regional mall, to be called Pabst Farms Town Center, will be built northeast of I-94 and Highway 67 and is expected to be open by 2010. Construction will begin in 2008. The change in developers will not affect the project's timeline, Pabst Farms spokesman Thad Nation said. The regional mall will be an open-air, lifestyle shopping center as originally planned, Nation said.

**OSCEOLA — Xccent Medical and Industrial** recently expanded by adding a new division to the company, making high-volume rubber and latex products. When running at capacity, it is able to make and package approximately 9,000 ice bags per day. Hopes were to make 650,000 bags in 2007. This recent expansion created 11 new jobs. Xccent also specializes in vinyl coated playground equipment and exterior decking materials.

**OSHKOSH — Oshkosh Truck Corp.** announced that, with Ideal Innovations Inc. (I-3), and Ceradyne Inc., it had been awarded a firm-fixed-priced delivery order to manufacture six Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) II test vehicles for the U.S. Marine Corps. The vehicles are to be delivered in the first quarter of 2008 and will be used for further government testing of Explosively Formed Penetrator (EFP) resistant capabilities. The BULL is produced on an Oshkosh MTRV (medium tactical vehicle replacement) chassis. The contract, awarded to I-3, Oshkosh Truck and Ceradyne, is worth \$18.1 million. Manufacturing of the vehicles will be performed in Wixom, Mich., Costa Mesa, Calif., and Oshkosh.

**PARK FALLS — The Peachtree Companies** of Mosinee will close its plant in Gainesville, Ga., and move production of its foamed patio and entry doors to the Weather Shield Manufacturing facility in Park Falls. Both Peachtree and Weather Shield are owned by the Schield family of Medford but operate independently. The plant closing will not affect the companies' workforce in central Wisconsin, said Amy Lewis, a Peachtree spokeswoman. "If anything, it will have a positive effect, moving some production from Georgia to central Wisconsin," she said. In 2001, the Schield family acquired SNE Enterprises of Mosinee and Peachtree Doors & Windows of Gainesville, known collectively as The Peachtree Cos., from Nortek Inc. for a reported \$45 million. It will maintain its Peachtree manufacturing facility in Mosinee.

**PLEASANT PRAIRIE — Abbott Laboratories Inc.** received approval from the village of Pleasant Prairie to move forward with plans to develop a two million-square-foot health care and pharmaceutical research campus valued at more than \$1.2 billion. Pleasant Prairie's Community Development Authority, Plan Commission and Village Board voted to accept the Illinois-based drug company's development agreement to build roads, begin landscaping projects and install signs on the proposed 482-acre business park west of Interstate 94 along Highway 165 in the Kenosha County community. The business park will be dedicated to the health care and pharmaceutical industries. Abbott will receive a \$12.5 million aid package from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. The state aid will be issued as a loan to the Kenosha Area Business Alliance, an economic development group that will use the money for land acquisition and infrastructure development.

**PLYMOUTH (City of) — Masters Gallery Foods, Inc.**, a leader in the private label, retail and food service cheese business, announced it intends to build an \$8 million addition to its Plymouth packaging and distribution plant. The expansion, which could create up to 40 new local jobs, would double the size of the company's facility at 411 County Highway PP and enhance the firm's production, warehousing and shipping/distribution capabilities, said Jeff Giffin, president and chief executive officer of Masters Gallery Foods. The company hopes to begin site development later this year and complete the expansion in late 2008, Giffin said.

**PRAIRIE DU CHIEN — Bloodmobile Dyesport**, an offshoot of Sports World, broke ground for a new 12,000-square-foot building to house a sportswear manufacturing plant which will employ 30 people. Owner Todd Yeomans said the fabric is already dyed in Prairie du Chien, but the cutting and sewing are currently done in DeSoto. Once the new plant is finished it will all be under one roof. The company manufactures everything from athletic wear to custom motorcycle covers. The new plant will be located at Vena Court, west of Hwy, 35 off Cliffwood Drive. They plan to complete the building and move in sometime before the end of the year.

**RACINE — Bert Jensen & Sons, Ultra Industries Inc. and Ingram Compaction LLC** have joined forces to expand into a bigger facility at 2300 South Street, Racine. The three local businesses are now housed under one roof, in new quarters and poised for growth. Bruce Jensen and Ko Kryger are co-owners of Bert Jensen & Sons, Ultra Industries Inc. and Ingram Compaction LLC. Until recently, all three shared an old industrial building at 1908 DeKoven Ave. The new building offers a potential for 60,000 square feet of high-bay manufacturing space on 10 acres. The owners expect to be able to double their production with the new plant, possibly by adding a third shift. Owners project the need for about 20 more employees within three to four years. Bert Jensen & Sons is a metal fabrication and job shop. Jensen is the third-generation president of the company which was founded in 1922. The firm employs about 50 people and does much of the fabrication work for Ingram and Ultra. Ingram, which started in Texas, makes rollers for road-compaction equipment. Kryger said he and Jensen project the need for about 20 more employees within three to four years.

**RIVER FALLS — Air Motion Systems (AMS)**, the leading North American manufacturer of high performance ultra violet (UV) systems for the printing industry, will relocate from Arvada, Colorado to River Falls, Wisconsin following the construction of its headquarters in 2008. In late October, it announced the construction of a 31,475-square-foot office and production facility on a six-acre site in Whitetail Ridge Corporate Park, a city-owned business campus located along State Highway 35 in River Falls. The site will accommodate another 30,000 square feet of space. AMS currently employs around 35 people.

**SHAWANO — Mid-County Cooperative** officially began manufacturing and distributing organic livestock feeds from its new Organic Feed & Supply Center. The opening of this new production and distribution center results from Wisconsin's position of being one of the fastest growing states for organic farming in the US. According to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, the number of organic farms in the state has risen from 422 to 807 in just five years. Headquartered in Shawano, Mid-County Cooperative is celebrating its 80th year of service in agriculture.

**SOUTH MILWAUKEE — Bucyrus International** will construct several new railroad spurs to serve its various manufacturing areas at a cost of \$1.3 million. It also will install a railroad/ truck scale to service its new facility north of Rawson Avenue, said Pete Golden, manager of redevelopment and facilities for the South Milwaukee mining equipment company. Bucyrus is expected to complete the railroad spur work next spring. Bucyrus is receiving a matching grant from the Transportation Assistance Program through the Wisconsin Department of Development.

**SPARTA — Multistack LLC** recently broke ground to expand its current manufacturing facility by 50,000 additional square feet. The new expansion nearly doubles the company's current manufacturing assembly area. Multistack's facility expansion reflects the company's profitable growth. Since 1989, the year Multistack started production in the U.S., the company has sustained an annual growth rate of 25 percent. In the last five years alone, Multistack has more than quadrupled production and revenues. Multistack is the world's leading manufacturer of high efficiency modular chillers for commercial, industrial and governmental applications. It employs more than 75 sales, administrative and technical personnel in Sparta.

**STURTEVANT — River's Bend Engineering (RBE)** has moved to 1611 Renaissance Blvd., Sturtevant, in the Renaissance Business Park. RBE has been growing by an average of 25 percent per year in revenues, prompting the need for larger headquarters. The company is currently hiring one more engineer, and anticipates hiring up to two additional staff in the near future. The company's engineers bring extensive experience in the field of industrial wastewater treatment, industrial process design and control systems, environmental compliance, and electrical power system analysis and design.

**SUPERIOR — AMSOIL** received a \$2.1 million loan to aid in the manufacturer's \$15 million expansion project underway at their Billings Park plant. The grant is part of Wisconsin's \$9 million Railroad Infrastructure Initiative. The improvements will not only benefit this company. As AMSOIL grows, it expects to add more than 50 jobs in the next five years. This obviously has a benefit on the Superior economy. On a short term basis, the improvements will create as many as 100 construction jobs with an estimated economic impact of over \$3 million.

**TOMAH — General Sheet Metal Works**, South Bend, Ind., has increased the size of its Tomah, Wis., plant from 22,500 square feet to 45,000 square feet of manufacturing space. The company says the additional capacity allows it to gain production efficiencies for current work and accommodate new business. The project includes new laser and press brake capacity, as well as expansion of the weld shop. The company's TRUMPF lasers cut carbon steel up to 3/4 inches thick from plates up to 72 inches by 144 inches. A manufacturer of metal components, assemblies, and weldments, General Sheet Metal Works' capabilities include laser, press brake, punch, punch/plasma, and manual and robotic welding production. The company expects the expansion to add up to 10 jobs to its 17-employee work force.

**VIROQUA — Sibby's Premium Organic Ice Cream's** products have gained national distribution. The company has opened its first organic ice cream parlor in Viroqua. With national distribution through the premiere organic distributor, United Natural Foods, Sibby's products are now sold in all Midwest Whole Foods Markets and many food co-ops and natural food stores across approximately 16 states. Sibby's is a hand-made all organic ice cream custard made from fresh, local milk. Their product is gluten-free and made without gums or artificial ingredients. The ice cream factory is part of a family's 150-year old Norwegian homestead farm. Sibby's new Organic Zone ice cream parlor is located in Viroqua. The Organic Zone serves fair-trade, locally roasted coffee and espresso drinks, soda, tea and hot dogs.

**WAUKESHA — TechSquad**, a provider of enterprise level, remote help desk solutions, has opened a new sales office in Manitowoc to better serve the Green Bay, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan area. TechSquad specializes in providing round-the-clock remote computer monitoring and help desk support for small and medium-sized businesses. TechSquad Live! Managed Services helps businesses eliminate expensive repairs and data recovery costs by monitoring network problems, updating computer networks daily and providing a guaranteed 15-minute response time to help desk questions.

**WAUPUN — Flexographic Packaging Co. (FPC)**, a Waupun-based printing company, announced it has begun a \$3 million expansion of its plant at 4 Taylor Street. Company officials said the expansion is doubling the size of the plant to 27,000 square feet and is needed to accommodate the firm's continued growth. The largest element of the project is a state-of-the-art, eight-color Windmoeller & Hoelscher Primaflex press. The expansion should accommodate additional hiring at the plant, which currently has 14 employees. The expansion was assisted in part by funds from the Fond du Lac County Revolving Loan program, administered by the Fond du Lac County Economic Development Corp. (FCEDC). FCEDC also provided technical assistance and existing business development services in the planning of the expansion.

**WAUSAUKEE — Wausaukee Composites**, a plastics and fiberglass manufacturer, announced it has acquired Nero Plastics of Owosso, Mich. "The combination of Wausaukee Composites and Nero Plastics will be highly complementary," said David Lisle, president and chief executive officer of Wausaukee Composites and a board member of the New North Inc., an organization that promotes businesses in northeastern Wisconsin. "This business combination will expand the array of comprehensive structural plastic molding solutions that Wausaukee Composites provides to its global Fortune 500 customer base." Nero Plastics has approximately 180 employees at two facilities in Owosso, which will help Wausaukee continue to expand its operations in North America.

**WAUWATOSA — Mayfair Radiology** is expanding into a new \$20 million building in October 2008, prompted by the growing number of outpatient services and aging population. The Wauwatosa organization is moving from an 18,000-square-foot space to a 25,000-square-foot space on Mayfair Road. It will occupy the first floor of the building, owned by Radiology Associates of Milwaukee. The remaining space will be leased to medical tenants.

**WEST ALLIS — West AJUs**, a coalition of three former southeast Wisconsin industrial centers, received \$35 million from the U.S. Treasury Department's New Markets Tax Credit program to help redevelop depressed manufacturing neighborhoods. West Allis is teaming up with Racine and Kenosha to form a nonprofit community development group called First-ring Industrial Redevelopment Enterprises, or FIRE. The organization will focus on bringing mixed-use development and business expansion funding to abandoned and under-utilized properties.

**WEST SALEM — Sprint** opened a new business customer call center in West Salem. The new call center will employ approximately 200 employees by spring 2008. The expanded operations will provide Sprint business customers enhanced care support, with a more proactive and personal level of service from care representatives, according to the company. The call center will eventually be equipped with specialized call-routing capabilities that will enable business customers to receive quicker service from representatives who are familiar with customers' account histories and understand their specific needs. The new center is part of Sprint and Nextel investing \$28 million to expand its networks in Wisconsin during 2007.

WISCONSIN – **Wisconsin** has secured \$120 million in New Markets Tax Credits from the U.S. Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund. Treasury awarded the credits under the 2007 round of the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) Program. The NMTC Program, established by Congress in December 2000, permits individual and corporate taxpayers to receive a credit against federal income taxes for making qualified equity investments in investment vehicles known as Community Development Entities (CDEs). In the five rounds to date, the CDFI Fund has made 294 awards totaling \$16 billion in tax credit authority. "This \$120 million investment is great news for the citizenry of Wisconsin," said William Bay, President of Impact Seven. "It is an outstanding example of organizations working together to attract resources that will act as a catalyst for economic development in local communities." In 2004, the same consortium was successful in securing \$100 million for the state which has impacted distressed communities throughout Wisconsin. The applications have helped bring together the public and private groups behind the effort.

[FORWARD WISCONSIN > > >](#)

[Wisconsin's Leading Source for Economic Development Information](#)

*Forward Wisconsin's role in the economic development arena is to help businesses establish profitable Wisconsin operations and aggressively market the state as a great place to do business. We provide state cost comparisons, Wisconsin financial information and a variety of other business consulting services to prospective expanding businesses. In Wisconsin, business assistance is very important to us. To enhance the site selection process, we also offer a database of available buildings and sites complemented by community profile information.*

[Want to view past issues of "Wisconsin's Growing" or get information on investing and doing business in Wisconsin? Or, find an available building or site?](#)

[Please visit us on the web at: ForwardWI.com](#)

[Please send us your news, newsletters, or other information about companies that are expanding their operations within the state or establishing new facilities. E-mail your notes to \[sharon.seffrood@wisconsin.gov\]\(mailto:sharon.seffrood@wisconsin.gov\)](#)

[Thank you!](#)