

County Perspectives

Economic development in Lincoln and Minnehaha Counties, South Dakota

Legacy Electronics begins production in Canton

Legacy Electronics, an ISO 9001:2000 certified contract manufacturer, designer and tester of high-speed, high-density memory modules, printed circuit boards, and other computer products, has begun production at its 40,000 square foot manufacturing plant in Canton, South Dakota. A ribboncutting ceremony was hosted September 19 by the Canton Chamber of Commerce, the Canton Economic Development Corporation and the Lincoln County Economic Development Association. Lieutenant Governor Matt Michels was the keynote speaker for the event.

Jason Engle, Legacy Electronics' chief executive officer, announced earlier this year that Legacy was expanding to Sioux Falls and moving its sales and administrative offices. In March, the firm chose Canton for its manufacturing operations and in June completed Phase 1 of the move from San Clemente, California, including installation, calibration and qualification of the Canton electronics component production line.

"Legacy Electronics is a perfect fit for South Dakota, and we couldn't be more pleased to have them locate here," Michels said. "I congratulate Jason and his team for getting Legacy up and running so quickly in Canton. I'm sure the company will find our business climate advantageous to its continued growth."



Celebrating the Legacy Electronics ribboncutting are Canton Chamber President Julie Marko, Mayor Elizabeth Bowling, Kerry and Jason Engle, Lt. Governor Matt Michels and CEDC President Jon Frick.

It has been an exceptional year for Canton's economic development effort. This spring, Governor Dennis Daugaard recognized Canton as the Small Community of the Year at his annual Economic Development Conference. Daugaard

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Adams Thermal constructs new fabrication plant

Construction is well underway on a new 60,000 square foot fabrication plant for Adams Thermal Systems, one of the nation's largest



CEO Mike Adams announces construction of the new fabrication plant.

manufacturers of engine cooling systems for vehicles.

"This fabrication plant is a further demonstration of our long term commitment to South Dakota and the Canton community," said Mike Adams, CEO. "As we grow our markets, it has become necessary to continue to expand our manufacturing footprint. This expansion will support the development of new technologies for engine cooling and continue to allow ATS to compete successfully in today's global environment."

The new fabrication plant will be the fifth addition to the Adams Thermal Canton facilities since 2005. The company, with another US facility in Cedar Falls, Iowa, has also established sites in Asia at Hangzhou, China, and in Europe at Meersburg, Germany.

"Adams Thermal Systems is a good example of a South Dakota company that's seeing global success while staying true to its South Dakota roots," said

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Legacy Electronics

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attributed Canton's award to major projects announced by two long-time Canton manufacturing companies.

Terex Corporation's Bid-Well concrete paving equipment business, a leader in the development and manufacture of specialized concrete paving machines, is currently constructing an 80,000 square foot manufacturing facility on an eight-acre site in the Canton industrial park. The business has been located in Canton since its founding in 1961, and is making a total investment in building and capital equipment of \$4.8 million. The company expects to add new employees and plans to be using the new facility by November of this year.

Also under construction is the Adams Thermal Systems 60,000-square-foot fabrication facility on West Innovation Street in the new industrial park adjacent to the company's Canton location. Governor Dugaard spoke at the announcement of the new plant at a ceremony in Canton on July 19.



From circuit board design through production, 100% of Legacy Electronics' products are now built in South Dakota.



MCEDA and LCEDA annual meeting



The future of business in South Dakota and the interaction between cities, counties and the state will be the focus of this year's Minnehaha and Lincoln County Economic Development Associations combined annual meeting. The event is scheduled for Thursday, November 10, 2011 in the Starlite Room at the Holiday Inn City Centre in downtown Sioux Falls. The agenda will include a report on development achievements of the past year in both counties, with a 2011 annual report to be distributed at the meeting.

The annual meeting will also feature a report from Jeff Eckhoff, executive director of both MCEDA and LCEDA. A social hour will begin at 6:00 p.m., with the program slated to commence at 6:45 p.m. The meeting is free and open to the public. Community and county officials are encouraged to attend, along with interested business people from both counties.

Adams Thermal

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Governor Dennis Daugaard. "This success story shows what the entrepreneurial spirit can accomplish, and I'm very pleased it's being accomplished right here in South Dakota."

Being constructed with a total investment in building and capital equipment of approximately \$6 million, the new plant will add 50 new jobs and be completed by January, 2012. Adams Thermal currently occupies 250,000 square feet of manufacturing space, employing 550 at their Canton location.

The City of Canton, the Canton Economic Development Corporation, Lincoln County, the Lincoln County Economic Development Association and the Governor's Office of Economic Development worked with Adams Thermal Systems on the expansion project, according to CEDC President Jon Frick.



Governor Dennis Daugaard, left, congratulates Mike Adams, CEO of Adams Thermal.

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Runaround track improves Corson park rail service

A new \$400,000 runaround track improvement to the Corson Development Park will facilitate rail service to existing companies in the park and add flexibility for future growth.

Currently, a switch from the main Burlington Northern rail line directs trains onto a spur that curves through the industrial park. Sidetracks off the spur allow for cars to be dropped at individual business sidings, but there is no current way for the train to return to the main line without backing up through the main switch. The runaround track is a bypass running parallel to the spur, permitting the train to unhook cars, get around dropped cars and get back on track.

"This is a long runaround that adds railcar storage and the ability to switch more cars," said Jeff Eckhoff, executive director of MCEDA, one of the partners in the Corson Development Park. "We are always looking at ways to expand our rail park, and this runaround makes our sites even more attractive to prospective new companies."

The project is being constructed to Burlington Northern specifications by a private contractor and should be completed and in service by the end of 2011.



Regional Director Rock Nelson speaks at the dedication of the new Trade Center.

Statewide International Trade Center established

South Dakota's businesses have a new resource to help them break into the international market with the opening of

South Dakota's International Trade Center (ITC) Office in Sioux Falls.

The ITC Office provides one-on-one consulting in international trade techniques, procedures and opportunities. The office also offers international business and financial plan assessments, and will work with the Great Plains International Trade Association (GPITA) to host training seminars. The office is the result of a partnership between the South Dakota Governor's Office of Economic Development, the U.S. Small Business Administration, GPITA, the South Dakota Small Business Development Center and the Sioux Falls Development Foundation.

Rock Nelson is the regional director of the new office, located in the U.S. Customs Building at 1 West Weather Lane. Nelson can be reached by calling 605-338-3424. For more information, visit www.usd.edu/sbdc.

PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: *Dell Rapids*

As young families continue to move into Dell Rapids, driving substantial and consistent population growth, the community has invested significantly in quality of life infrastructure projects.

The most recently completed of these projects is the new \$1.6 million fire station and ambulance headquarters. The new facility replaces an outdated central-city building and provides room for additional fire trucks to be added to the community fleet as the city grows. Also in the works is a \$1.6 million remodel and upgrade of the Dell Rapids Carnegie Library.

Fundraising was kicked off with a \$400,000 endowment and has reached the \$1 million mark, thanks to community donations and a HUD grant arranged through Senator Tim Johnson.

Dell Rapids is working to complete a 1.7 mile bicycle and pedestrian recreation trail surrounding the city park. The trail features a bridge over the Big Sioux River near the community's namesake rapids and scenic views along the river. Campgrounds are planned for an area contiguous to the trail, which was delayed by this summer's flooding. The park improvements are being made with



Justin Weiland, left, and Clair Wuebben.

grants and donations with no public funds used, according to City Administrator Justin Weiland.

This winter will see the opening of the new elementary school in Dell Rapids, as the \$10 million school welcomes students for the second semester. The completion of the school has encouraged the city to make infrastructure improvements to 15th Street, the road that provides access to the school. Curb and gutter, a concrete surface and new water and sewer lines will not only serve the school but also open up the area for residential development. The community expects a commercial hub to develop where 15th Street meets the main highway.

The city is also holding public discussion on a new development park. The non-profit Dell Rapids Development Co. is working closely with the city and has an option on 80 acres south of town. Feasibility of the project is currently being explored.

"We feel that a development park is the missing element in Dell Rapids' growth," said Clair Wuebben, a board member of the development group. "We're establishing a close-knit partnership with the city and plan to move forward together to find the right location."

Now is the time to be *MORE* involved

As we struggle out of the economic downturn, the importance of action and accurate information becomes clearly apparent. There is a jungle of facts, figures, ideas and opinions about what's next for our economy, our country, our state and our individual communities. That tangle of information can be frustrating, but there has never been a time when public awareness and involvement has been more crucial than **right now**.

Even though it seems that there is little we can do to affect the future—even in our own hometowns—that is NOT the case. Despite the difficulty in making sense of economic ups and downs and the confidence levels of companies and families, we need to do all we can to stay well informed and active. Apathy and a feeling of helplessness can be countered by participation and education—and it starts in your own community. Here are just a few things YOU can do to stay informed and involved:

1. Attend public meetings. We are all busy with our families and our lives, but the future is being forged in those school board, city council and county commission meetings. If you just can't make it to meetings, talk to your elected officials and ask them to fill you in on what's new.

2. Keep up on the news. Read a newspaper, check

out online news services, listen and watch news programs—and try to get a **wide** range of opinions. By gathering data and weighing viewpoints, you can develop a better-informed personal opinion.

3. Share your views. When you talk with your neighbors about the events of the day, you are indicating that those events, whether local, state or national, are important to you and your community. When you converse about the economy, the state of your streets or the funding of your local schools, you are participating in a dialog that can help shape our future.

4. Be realistic. Being involved is hard work, whether you are an elected official or a citizen who cares. Realize up front that understanding and positive change don't happen overnight. Be willing to do the hard work to make good things a reality in your community.

By caring enough to stay informed and involved, we can feel better about the future—and about the places we call home.



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