



The June 2008 Open for Business report highlights projects and related announcements that will assist with the creation of new jobs and the preservation of a significant number of existing jobs.

#### **CertainTeed Gypsum opens new plant near Moundsville**

CertainTeed Gypsum hosted the grand opening of its new manufacturing plant near Moundsville, W.Va., on May 30. At \$150 million, the CertainTeed Gypsum plant represents the largest manufacturing investment in the state since 1996, when Toyota announced it was locating an engine plant in Buffalo. The 750,000-square-foot manufacturing facility sits near the American Electric Power (AEP) Kammer-Mitchell coal-burning power plant. CertainTeed recycles a byproduct from AEP's scrubber stack and converts it into raw material for producing high-quality gypsum wallboards. The new plant is expected to create 200 jobs within three years.

#### **Plastics recycling firm starts operations in Jackson County**

Intercontinental Export-Import Inc. (IEI) has opened a plastics recycling operation called Total Recycling Solutions LLC, in Ravenswood. IEI purchased the 217,000-square-foot polymer processing facility formerly occupied by Ravenswood Specialty Services Inc. The plant will provide extrusion, grinding and other services. Initially the company will employ 40 people, projected to increase to 185 in three years. IEI has operated in West Virginia for about five years. The company has two facilities in Wood County and has expanded operations four times during this period.

#### **NGK celebrates opening of new spark plug plant in Kanawha County**

NGK Spark Plug Co. Ltd. marked the opening of its new spark plug plant near Sissonville in May. The new facility was built alongside the company's existing oxygen sensor plant and distribution center. The \$15 million spark plug plant measures 85,000 square feet and houses two assembly lines capable of producing 20 million spark plugs per year. Jobs created by this new facility will total 80 within three years' time. The sensor plant and distribution center employ more than 200 people.

#### **Italian auto parts firm to expand manufacturing operations in Wayne County**

Alleward Sogefi is investing \$7 million to add production of engine filter systems to its manufacturing plant in Prichard, W.Va. The Alleward Sogefi USA Inc. plant will continue to produce stabilizer bars for vehicle suspensions. The new engine filter systems product line is expected to start operation by the end of 2009 and create 65 jobs by the end of 2010. West Virginia will be the site of the first engine filter systems production site the Italian

automotive component manufacturer has built in North America. Sogefi is recognized as a worldwide leader in car vehicles components, specializing in filtration systems and the suspensions' flexible components.

### **WVEDA approves loans to four companies**

During its May meeting, the West Virginia Economic Development Authority (WVEDA) gave final approval to four loans:

- B&D Investments LLC, \$360,000 to purchase and expand a building on two acres of land in Spring Hill, Kanawha County. B&D will lease the facility to Dynamic Graphics, an embroidery and silk screening operation. Dynamic Graphics is merging with print and office supply company Custom Business Associates. The merged businesses have a combined total of 21 employees and expect that figure to increase to 32 employees within three years.
- BMR LLC, \$540,000, to finance a 13,300-square-foot building and equipment in Huntington, Cabell County. BMR will lease the facility to CE Adkins & Sons Inc.
- Clerietta WV LLC, \$796,500, to finance a building on a three-acre lot in the Putnam Industrial Park. Clerietta will lease the facility to Multicoat Products.
- Multicoat Products, \$450,000, to finance equipment to be installed in the building it will lease in the Putnam Industrial Park in Frazier's Bottom. Multicoat produces and distributes concrete restoration and waterproofing products for pools, spas, decks, walkways, parking garages, walls and stucco. Currently Multicoat employs seven people and projects that figure will double within three years.

WVEDA also approved more than \$290 million in refunding bonds for ongoing American Electric Power (AEP) projects. Issues involving the ratings downgrade of certain bond insurers have caused AEP to restructure its credit enhancement on outstanding bond indebtedness. WVEDA refunding bond proceeds will be used to pay off the old bonds.

### **Touchstone Research wins Phase I SBIR Award**

Touchstone Research Laboratory Ltd. was selected for a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase I grant. The Triadelphia, W.Va., company was selected by the United States Department of Energy. Touchstone's project is to develop a closed algae cultivation system that controls seasonal temperature fluctuations. The project is expected to produce algal oil for the biofuels industry at a competitive price compared to open ponds and other closed systems.

### **Wood County delegation visits Japan**

Representatives of Wood County and the West Virginia Development Office conducted an investment mission to Japan May 9-16. They met with Hino Motors executives regarding their recent investment in Wood County and made contact with Hino Motors' suppliers and other investment prospects. Members of the delegation visited Tokyo, Hino City, Nagoya and Tokyo City.

### **Bombardier Services wins aircraft maintenance contract**

Atlantic Southeast Airlines has selected Bombardier Services Corporation (BSC) to perform heavy maintenance services on its CRJ200 regional jets. The maintenance will be performed at the Bombardier Aircraft Service facility (West Virginia Air Center) in Bridgeport, W.Va. Based in Harrison County, the facility provides all levels of aircraft maintenance, repair and modification, as well as component repair and overhaul.

### **Biotech company to expand commercial DNA production**

Huntington-based Vandalia Research Inc. plans to expand the commercialization of its proprietary Triathlon DNA production services. Triathlon is a polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-based DNA production system, which allows the cost-effective production of linear DNA fragments. Uses for DNA production include diagnostics, DNA vaccines, and standards. Vandalia's expansion is made possible by financing led by Mountaineer Capital, LP, with additional investment from the West Virginia Jobs Investment Trust Board and several individual investors.

### **West Virginia Small Business Division helps 238 clients in April**

The West Virginia Small Business Division (WVSBD) provided 634 hours of counseling to 238 clients in April. The division trained 145 people at 15 training events and approved five loans totaling more than \$1.2 million dollars. Since the fiscal year began on Oct. 1, 2007, WVSBD has served 797 clients, provided 3,867 hours of counseling and trained 738 participants in 85 training events. So far this fiscal year, the agency provided 44 small business loans totaling more than \$10 million. A division of the West Virginia Development Office, WVSBD works with colleges, universities and other host institutions to provide business consulting and technical assistance statewide.

### **Southern Business & Development ranks Huntington among "top 10 small towns"**

The city of Huntington ranks among Southern Business & Development magazine's "top 10 small towns in the south that deserve a second look." Published in the Winter 2008 edition, the article cites Huntington's business advantages such as advanced telecommunications infrastructure and strategic location and praises the Huntington Area Development Council for attracting more than 9,000 new jobs and \$260 million in new capital investment.

### **Service Pump hosts open house to mark facility expansion in Wayne County**

Service Pump and Supply Inc. hosted an open house in May to celebrate its new 94,000-square-foot facility in Huntington. The company sells pumps, motors, pipes and supplies to the mining industry, municipalities and plants. During the past year, Service Pump has hired 10 new workers, bringing its current number of employees to 45. The company expects to add 10 to 15 more jobs in the next year.

### **City of Welch receives \$2 million loan to upgrade sewer system**

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund loaned \$2 million to the city of Welch to rehabilitate its existing sewer system and provide a sewer extension to serve a new federal prison. The loan was provided at zero percent interest over 40 years. Bids for a project to upgrade a waste water treatment plant for the Elk Valley Public Service District have been received. The loan is expected to be around \$16 million.