

ABC Fuel Systems adds 114 jobs

Expansion amounts to \$5 million investment

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Gallatin Mayor Jo Ann Graves with ABC Fuel Systems Vice President Marius Sipos last year at the company's facility in Gallatin. / SUBMITTED

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Though it has been one of the most visibly impacted sectors affected by the recent recession, at least two Gallatin plants that manufacture for the automotive industry have seen an increase in demand in the past year.

ABC Group Fuel Systems announced Tuesday its plan to add 114 new jobs at its Gallatin plant, officials said.

The company is investing \$5 million to expand production at the facility on ABC Boulevard by adding new equipment and in turn will need new workers to operate and maintain the machines.

The plant was not previously at capacity, so the growth will not require any new construction, said Gallatin Economic Development Agency Director Clay Walker, who has been assisting ABC Group officials to help make the expansion happen.



ABC Group Fuel Systems Human Resources Manager Janice Fish-Stewart, Fuel Systems Vice President Marius Sipos, Gallatin Mayor Jo Ann Graves and Gallatin Economic Development Agency Director Clay Walker talk at City Hall Wednesday. ABC recently announced a \$5 million production expansion at one of its Gallatin facilities that will add 114 new jobs. / SUBMITTED PHOTO

Less than a mile from ABC Fuel Systems, a facility that produces steel powder primarily for the automotive industry has also reported an increase in demand.

Hoeganaes, which operates a production plant on Airport Road, shipped 46 percent more total tons of its products in 2010 than the prior year, according to an annual report by GKN PLC, the company's United Kingdom-based corporate parent.

The increase was due to continued pressure on manufacturers to implement new technologies that reduce emissions and improve fuel efficiency, the report said.

ABC Group Fuel Systems produces low-emission fuel products at a rate of more than 1 million plastic fuel tank assemblies per year, a company statement said.

Marius Sipos, the company's vice president of fuel systems, said the announcement marks the eighth expansion by ABC Group in Middle Tennessee.

Walker said city officials had been working with ABC to help the company save money during the worst parts of the economic downturn, finding more cost-effective ways to dispose of waste and reduce electric bills.

"The majority of your job growth is going to come from existing industry, and as such you need to be paying attention to it," Walker said. "It doesn't just happen on its own."

The new jobs are a combination of full-time production and maintenance positions.

ABC Group is headquartered in Toronto, Canada and has three facilities in Gallatin – ABC Group Fuel Systems, ABC Technologies and Salga Plastics. The company established itself in Gallatin in 1987 and the Fuel Systems plant opened in 1998.