



Thursday, March 18, 2010

Linatex announces major expansion

Linatex Corporation of America announced that major expansion activities are underway at manufacturing facilities located in Gallatin and Wisconsin, said Greg Caddle, President, in a recent press release.

“In light of substantial growth in our slurry hose manufacturing line, major expansion projects are currently underway at both the Gallatin and St. Croix Falls, WI, manufacturing facilities,” Caddle stated.

With hose sales figures expected to double in 2010 alone, the slurry hose manufacturing line is undergoing a 12,000 square foot expansion at the Gallatin facility. Contractors and staff have been busy implementing additional capacity, with an expected completion date of June 2010.

To accommodate the additional space requirements needed at Gallatin, Caddle said it was an excellent opportunity to incorporate the Gallatin molded products line with the already existing molded products line at the St. Croix Falls facility.

And the announcement has already had an impact on the local economy. Clay Walker, executive director of the Gallatin Economic Development Agency, said Linatex’s announcement means a lot to the community.

“The success at Linatex is welcomed news to be sure,” said Walker. “Linatex is special to me because it was the first company I had the opportunity to help through an issue when I arrived in Gallatin nearly five years ago.”

“Since then, Linatex has remained a preferred employer and enthusiastic participant in our GEAR (Gallatin Expansion and Retention) program. This type of news illustrates once again just how important it is to have a strong existing industry component to an economic development program.”

Caddle said the Wisconsin plant is also undergoing expansion by relocating to a newly leased plant that allows for 15,000 square feet of increased manufacturing space. Consolidating both molded products lines allows for increased efficiencies and the ability to combine and increase resources in the way of equipment and staff.

Along with manufacturing growth come jobs. “We are pleased to announce the addition of a third shift and 20 manufacturing positions at the Gallatin facility to be implemented by June, with more anticipated in the future,” said Jackie Schommer, VP of Human Resources.

Walker points out that while Linatex manufactures its product in Gallatin, the facility here also serves as the company’s headquarters for operations in the Americas and that growth at other facilities almost always bodes well for the local office and plant. “People don’t always recognize how many headquarters we have here,” he said.

“When you tell folks that headquarters represent our number one target industry, they tend to roll their eyes and think, ‘yeah, you and everybody else.’ But we have a very understated cluster here and we use that fact in recruiting. These operations are also typically leaders in our agency’s existing business and industry outreach programs and community involvement and Linatex is certainly no exception on that front.”

“Linatex has long been known as being a “Solutions Provider” for our customers and the growth in our slurry hose operations is a direct result of these efforts,” Caddle added.

“In a market that has seen downsizing and layoffs, it’s exciting to be in a position of growth and expansion.”