

General Mills Is “Nourishing Lives” And Adding Jobs



MURFREESBORO, Tenn. General Mills, Inc of Minneapolis, Minn. announced the company’s decision to invest \$100 million in the expansion of the company’s production

facility in Murfreesboro, Tenn. Company officials say the plant, which manufactures products for General Mills’ Yoplait yogurt brand, will add approximately 80 jobs.

General Mills product brands are well known to consumers around the world and in addition to Yoplait, includes Pillsbury, Green Giant, Cheerios and Betty Crocker. The company has more than 30,000 em-

ployees worldwide and its products are marketed to more than 100 countries on six continents around the world.

The Yoplait line of products is a \$1.5 billion business for General Mills and is America’s leading yogurt brand. Products include Yoplait Original yogurt, Yoplait Light and Go-Gurt yogurt for kids. In addition to being a long time corporate citizen of Rutherford County, the General Mills facility in Murfreesboro has also participated with General Mills plants around the world in innovating new safety measures to reduce the stresses and strains which accompany employee lifting and an employee-led sustainability program in Murfreesboro

resulted in energy, water and waste cost savings of more than \$86,000 for the company in 2009.

One of the world's leading food companies, General Mills operates in more than 100 countries and markets more than 100 consumer brands, including Cheerios, Häagen-Dazs, Nature Valley, Betty Crocker, Pillsbury, Green Giant, Old El Paso, Progresso, Yoplait, Cascadian Farm, Muir Glen, and more. Headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, General Mills had fiscal 2010 global net sales of US\$16 billion. ♦

BioMimetic Plans \$20M Expansion

FRANKLIN, Tenn. BioMimetic Therapeutics Inc. announced that it is bringing manufacturing of its first U.S. product in-house, a \$20 million investment that will double the biotechnology company’s Franklin footprint and add up to 75 jobs over the next three years.

BioMimetic has about 100 employees at its headquarters at the Cool Springs Life Sciences Center, where the company also houses its research and development activities. Adding manufacturing will strengthen its Middle Tennessee operations and bolster efforts to nurture the region’s fledgling biopharmaceutical sector.

BioMimetic’s first product, Augment Bone Graft, is pending approval before the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and is expected to hit the U.S.

market by the middle of this year.

At the same time, BioMimetic is seeking FDA approval to package Augment kits at the life science center, as well as store and distribute the product from there.

BioMimetic is leasing space in an empty building of the life sciences center, and it occupies all 32,000 square feet of the campus’s original building. The first phase of the build-out, will include construction of a sterile warehouse and cold room for storage.

In the second phase, which should begin sometime in the next 18 months, BioMimetic will build a quality-control laboratory and space for packaging and clean manufacturing. The final phase should come in 2013.

By bringing warehousing, distribution and manufacturing in house, BioMimetic hopes to gain more control over its product, ensuring regulatory compliance and helping to manage costs.

“Only a handful of biotech companies call Middle Tennessee home, but the numbers are growing”, said Kriste Goad, executive director of the Tennessee Biotechnology Association.



BioMimetic is a biotechnology company specializing in the development and commercialization innovative drug-device combination products to promote the healing of musculoskeletal injuries and diseases, including orthopedic, spine and sports injury applications. All products developed by BioMimetic are based upon recombinant human platelet-derived growth factor platform technology, which is a synthetic form of PDGF, one of the body's principal agents to stimulate and direct healing and regeneration. Through the commercialization of this patented technology, BioMimetic seeks to become the leading company in the field of regenerative medicine by providing new treatment options for the repair of bone, cartilage, tendons and ligaments, thus helping patients recover faster from their orthopedic injuries. ♦

OHL Expanding Brentwood Headquarters

NASHVILLE, Tenn. Global supply chain management company OHL recently signed a new, multi-year lease and will expand its existing Brentwood, Tenn. headquarters. The company's expansion plan will add approximately 200 jobs over the next two to three years and will occupy nearly 100,000 square feet of office space at its Synergy Business Park headquarters. The Tennessee-based company has experienced significant growth leading up to this expansion, starting as a local service provider and now offering logistics solutions throughout the world.

OHL's expansion of its headquarters supports the company's continued growth both domestically and internationally. The company currently oper-

ates in twenty-four US states and 17 countries worldwide. OHL will expand its corporate U.S. operations in Brentwood while continuing to operate regional headquarters in London and Singapore.

OHL offers comprehensive logistics solutions to support customers throughout the world, including transportation, warehousing and distribution, customs brokerage, freight forwarding and trade consulting services. The company serves a wide range of industries including apparel, electronics, printing, food and beverage, and consumer packaged goods.

Based in Tennessee, OHL is one of the largest 3PLs (Third Party Logis-

tics) in the world, with three business units — Global Freight Management and Logistics, Contract Logistics, and North America Transportation — OHL operates more than 130 value-added distribution centers, offers comprehensive transportation management services, employs nearly 6,000, and has offices worldwide. OHL has expertise in direct to consumer fulfillment, serves a wide range of business sectors from specialty retail to manufacturing, and specializes in the apparel, electronics, printing, food and beverage, and consumer packaged goods industries. ♦

Great Marks In Coffee

COFFEE COUNTY, Tenn. The Newell/Rubbermaid facility in Coffee County has won two awards for engineering and design excellence. The annual awards were presented by the Associated Building Contractors. T.W. Frierson Contractor, Inc. was recognized for their work on the Ink Manufacturing Plant and Laboratory. The Comfort Group, Inc. was recognized for their work on the Sharpie Manufacturing facility. ♦

Japanese Auto Supplier Breaks Ground On 'Boro Plant



MURFREESBORO, Tenn. NHK Seating of America broke ground on a new automotive manufacturing facility in Murfreesboro. The new Tennessee home for NHK will represent an investment of nearly \$54 million and is expected to reach full production in late 2012. The facility is anticipating to employ up to 224 workers when all phases of production are implemented in 2015.

The 51 acre site will have 2 manufacturing facilities with a total area of 140,000 square feet at launch, leaving plenty of

area for further expansion. The Murfreesboro facility will initially manufacture automotive seat frames. Production equipment lineup includes 1,200 ton stamping press, 400 ton stamping press and several welding assembly machines with NHK's cutting-edge technologies. Daiei & Co., Ltd, an automotive plastic part manufacturer, will join this new site as well.

NHK Seating of America, headquartered in Frankfort, Indiana was founded in 1989 as a joint venture between NHK

Spring Co, LTD of Yokohama, Japan and Lear Corp. of Southfield, Michigan. NHK Spring celebrated their 70th anniversary last year. The corporation was formed in the United States in order to utilize NHK and Lear Technology to manufacture, assemble and distribute seating and other automotive parts to Japanese Automotive plants in North America.

NHK Spring acquired 100% share of the company in 2006 and the name was changed to NHK Seating of America, Inc. ♦

Bridgestone Grows In BNA

NASHVILLE, Tenn. Nashville-based Bridgestone Americas Inc announced the company's North American operations will be moving the headquarters of its Bandag, new and retreaded commercial-tire unit to Nashville from Muscatine, Iowa, by next summer.

Also headed to Nashville will be the headquarters of the Bridgestone Americas Original Equipment tire unit in Novi, Michigan., a Detroit suburb.

Twenty-five positions were eliminated at the Nashville headquarters, but there will be a net gain of about 100 jobs there with transfers from other sites across the county. There were no cuts in the manufacturing plants in Tennessee.

Bandag produces retreading systems and markets medium and heavy duty tires for commercial vehicles and over-the-road trucks. Sales of retreaded tires do well during economic downturns, mostly because they are less expensive than new tires.

Founded in Muscatine in 1957, the retread company Bandag Inc., was acquired by Bridgestone in 2007. In 2008 it merged with Bridgestone's new truck tire group and was renamed Bridgestone Bandag Tire Solutions. ♦

LaVergne Derby Grows

LA VERGNE, Tenn. Derby Fabricating will double its size to more than 120,000 square feet after moving into a building it purchased in LaVergne near Interstate 24 .

Derby Fabricating offers world class die cutting solutions for the appliance and auto parts industries. The ultimate goal at Derby Fabricating is to be their customers' best supplier. This goal is achieved by emphasizing quality, innovative service and total cost management.

Derby was founded in 1977 primarily to serve the automotive and appliance industries.

In the years since, Derby has managed to compete successfully in dozens of industries with hundreds of products and services. Currently they have production locations in three states throughout America. In all of their product lines, they offer an award-winning quality program

which has produced outstanding audit scores and PPM results from our most demanding customers. They were among the first in the industry to achieve TS 16949 Certification. Derby's continuous improvement programs are aimed at always exceeding your quality expectations.

As their manufacturing capabilities have grown and diversified, so have their customer services grown and become more inventive. In order to offer their customers the best in quality and services; Derby continually purchase state of the art equipment to meet their customers fabrication needs. From a precision laser that cuts dies to the latest prototype cutter; Derby has the solution for all their customers die cutting projects. With complete laminating, die cutting, and custom assembly, Derby offers customers a total package. ♦

GM Revs Up Spring Hill

SPRING HILL, Tenn. General Motors announced its decision to expand the production of the next generation of the Ecotec 4-cylinder engines at the company's Spring Hill manufacturing facility. GM plans to spend approximately \$483 million to install a third engine manufacturing line and create 483 new jobs.

General Motors anticipates initial spending of \$23 million to increase production of the L850 engine, used in the Chevrolet Equinox, Buick LaCrosse and GMC Terrain in the first quarter of 2011, creating 30 hourly jobs. The remainder

of the investment, \$460 million and 453 hourly and salaried jobs, would come over a two-year period.

More than 1,000 workers are currently employed at the 6.9 million square foot Spring Hill facility manufacturing three models of the Ecotec engine for GM plants around the world. GM officials say the new jobs created would likely be filled from the ranks of GM employees laid off last year, in accordance with the automaker's national labor agreement with the United Auto Workers. ♦

Asurion Dials In On BNA

NASHVILLE, Tenn. Asurion, the mobile phone service provider, will expand their Nashville operation and in the process add 500 new jobs to its current Tennessee workforce of 2,400 employees over the next five years.

Asurion relocated its corporate headquarters from California to Nashville in 2003 with a plan to create 600 new jobs. Since that original announcement, the company has grown its Tennessee-based workforce by 1,800 people. The company originally began with a business model focused on providing roadside rescue services to stranded motorists, then expanded into insuring, recovering and repairing mobile phones and home electronics. Today, those services are provided to more than 90 million customers around the world.

Asurion operates out of headquarters facilities in Grassmere Park in Nashville and operates two technology and logistics centers in Rutherford County. The company has not yet announced whether the expansion plans will focus on existing facilities or a new site within Davidson County.

Asurion is a global leader in technology protection services. From lost, stolen and damaged wireless handsets to backing up and securing handset data, Asurion provides more than 90 million consumers worldwide with best-in-class claims and replacement service.. Asurion is privately-held with more than 5,000 employees and operates in six countries across three continents. ♦

ETI Precision To Smith County

GORDONSVILLE, Tenn. ETI Precision Corp. officials announced the company will locate a 58,000 square-foot manufacturing facility in Gordonsville, Tenn. The plant will be located in the former Dura Building on Spicer Drive in the Smith County Industrial Park. The new operation represents a \$2.1 million investment and the creation of eight full-time production positions and four full-time management positions. More than fifty full-time production positions would be created in phase one of the company's business plan.

ETI Precision is a part of Elmet Technologies Inc. They have been in business since 1929. Elmet Technologies is a global supplier of high performance materials focusing on Molybdenum and Tungsten. Their product line includes wire, rod, sheet, and plate as well as machined, fabricated, and pressed and sintered parts that go into medical, alternative energy, semiconductor, and elec-

tronics markets among others. Elmet Technologies incorporates personalized sales and service into the manufacture of high quality products to maintain their position as a market leader.

The company's headquarters are located in Lewiston, Maine, where it occupies more than 220,000 square feet of manufacturing space and employs 230 people.

Lewiston, Maine is best known as the site of the rematch heavyweight boxing championship between Cassius Clay (aka Muhammad Ali) and Sonny Liston. Clay won in the first round. The fight's outcome is one of the most controversial in boxing history. ♦

"All growth depends upon activity. There is no development physically or intellectually without effort, and effort means work."

Calvin Coolidge

Commonwealth Smokes In Goodlettsville

GOODLETTSVILLE, Tenn. After a search lasting nearly 20 months, Commonwealth Brands, Inc., the country's fourth largest tobacco manufacturer will be relocating its corporate office to Goodlettsville in Spring 2011. The Company has been based in Bowling Green, KY since it was formed, however, its ever growing employee base has resulted in it outgrowing its current premises. "After an exhaustive search, which included Bowling Green and other parts of Kentucky, we finally settled on Goodlettsville," stated Jonathan Cox, the Company's CEO. "The city has gone out of its way to welcome us and the investment that we bring and, in the end, it was a decision that we are delighted with." Commonwealth expects to bring with the move the majority of its 100+ staff and already has plans for further expansion and employment opportunities. "We are excited about the move and are thrilled to be able to make this investment into the Middle Tennessee community, which will include the crea-

tion of many new, high quality jobs," Cox continued.

Commonwealth's corporate office will be at 112 Long Hollow Pike. This announcement makes Goodlettsville corporate headquarters for Dollar General Corporation, ReMedPar Corporation, (moved from So. California two years ago), and now Commonwealth Brands, Inc.

Boyle Investment Company purchased the 43,000-square-foot building for \$2.17M, and helped relocate several tenants in order to accommodate Commonwealth's need for 32,000-square-feet of space. The building will now be occupied by Commonwealth and Region's bank, which is occupying the remainder of the 43,000-square-foot building.

Tom Tucker, Director of Economic & Community Development for the City of Goodlettsville, said, "Goodlettsville is proud to welcome Commonwealth

to our city. This is further endorsement that Goodlettsville offers the right combination of features that are attractive to businesses, including very large corporations."

Goodlettsville Mayor Gary Manning added, "We are very pleased that Commonwealth is committed to being a good corporate citizen through support of local community organizations."

Commonwealth Brands, Inc. is the fourth largest tobacco manufacturer in the United States. Its cigarettes include Daviddoff, Sonoma, Montclair and USA Gold, one of the nation's best selling brands. Its portfolio of fine tobaccos consists of the Premier, McClintock, Rave and Bali Shag brands. Commonwealth Brands, Inc. employs over 1,000 people across 50 states. The company has over 250 employees in its manufacturing facility in Reidsville, NC. ♦

IB-Tech To Mount Pleasant

MT. PLEASANT, Tenn. IB-Tech, a subsidiary of Japanese-owned auto parts manufacturer Imasen Electric Industrial Co., Ltd., will open a production facility in Mount Pleasant. IB-Tech will invest \$50 million to manufacture high quality seat adjusters for clients such as Mitsubishi and Honda, creating 385 jobs in Maury County.

IB-Tech will start production planning in 2011 with full production in 2012 and will continue adding employees through 2013. The facility will be located in the former Avantech building. "We are excited about opening a facility in Maury County," John Freundner, assistant vice president of administration for IB-Tech said. "The location, support from community leaders, solid workforce and

great facility in Mount Pleasant was key in our selection process."

"We've been working on this project for some time now," Maury County Mayor Jim Bailey said. "It takes a lot of people to get a deal like this done; I'm proud of the way the State of Tennessee, TVA, the City of Mount Pleasant and Maury County all worked together to get this project across the goal line."

The new plant in Mt. Pleasant will be the second in the U.S. of IB-Tech. In addition to seat adjusters, Imasen Electric produces automobile lamps, relays and window regulators. Imasen Electric is an independent Japanese auto-parts manufacturer holding a large share of the market for automobile seat adjust-

ers. The company manufactures a variety of products for the automotive industry and serves clients such as Honda and Mitsubishi. This will be their second manufacturing facility in the United States, with one previous operation in Bucyrus, Ohio. ♦

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