

# Electrolux adding \$20M to Springfield plant expansion

Nicole Young, USA TODAY NETWORK - Tennessee

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(Photo: Submitted photo)

Electrolux is adding a second, \$20 million expansion to the \$25 million project that's currently underway at its Springfield facility, for a total investment of \$45 million in Robertson County.

As part of its official announcement Thursday, the company donated more than \$200,000 in commercial-grade kitchen equipment to the Robertson County United Way and the United Way of the Greater Clarksville Region for distribution to partner agencies in three counties: Montgomery, Robertson and Houston.

A portion of the donation is also benefitting Robertson County Schools, according to United Way Director Michelle Powell.

"They're getting two prep tables," she said. "The one at the central office will be used for catering and the one at Springfield High School will be used to open a fourth serving line."



Robertson County Schools officials posed for photos during the Thursday event. Pictured are Robert Swieder, Robertson County Mayor Howard Bradley, Robertson County Director of Schools Mike Davis, Electrolux Springfield Operations Manager John Terzo, Robertson County Schools Nutrition Supervisor and County Commissioner Patsi Gregory and incoming Robertson County Director of Schools Chris Causey. (Photo: Nicole Young / USA TODAY NETWORK - Tennessee)

United Ministries Food Bank, YMCAs in Robertson and Montgomery Counties, Beauty for Ashes, Manna Café Ministries, HATS, Ajax Turner Senior Citizens Center and Bethesda Community Mission were included as direct beneficiaries of the donation.

Electrolux also gave more than 6,600 backpacks of food, valued at about \$20,000, to TN Kids Nutrition for local children who are at risk of going hungry during weekends, according to a company spokeswoman.

"The impact to the community is tremendous," said Ginna Holleman, director of the United Way of the Greater Clarksville Region. On the appliances side of the donation, Holleman couldn't think of any non-profit that would have been able to afford the equipment with their own funding, she said.

"It opens up a wide opportunity as well for the capacity that they're able to build and store and operate out of," she said. "We are just overwhelmed by the generosity of Electrolux."

## Construction plans outlined



**Springfield Mayor Ann Schneider and Robertson County Mayor Howard Bradley react to the Electrolux expansion announcement on Thursday, June 22, 2017. (Photo: Submitted photo)**

Thursday's event marked the start of the company's \$20 million expansion project, which overlaps the current \$25 million expansion by a couple of months and is expected to be complete by 2019, according to company spokeswoman Eloise Hale.

The main goal of the new project is to simplify operations at the manufacturing plant, Hale said.

"When you think about a plant of our size, there's a tremendous amount of complexity involved," she said. "This plant is one of the largest in our company, and it's incredibly important to our business."

Like the first project, announced last year, the new investment will expand the size of the company's footprint in Robertson County with additional square footage, Hale said.

In this case, no new buildings are planned, but company officials do plan to add to the existing manufacturing facility, where the plant's assembly lines are located, Hale said. She did not know how much space would be added Thursday.



**Electrolux welcomed community residents, workers and area leaders to its plant for a formal expansion announcement. (Photo: Nicole Young / USA TODAY NETWORK - Tennessee)**

"Our Springfield facility has long been an important part of our company's overall success," Electrolux Springfield Plant Manager Mike Longe said in a company release. "This investment will help ensure that we remain a strong Springfield employer and a competitive appliance manufacturer."

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Last year's expansion added 25 new jobs, updated the facility and added a new production area, according to local officials.

The new investment shows the commitment that Electrolux is making in the community, Robertson County Mayor Howard Bradley said Thursday

"A \$45 million infrastructure investment is massive, and I take comfort in the fact that they wouldn't be doing this if they didn't plan to stay here for a long time, add more jobs and add a higher skill level job," he said, noting that he's worked with Electrolux through good times and difficult ones.

"They are always very responsive ... and an excellent corporate citizen."



A worker uses a forklift to transport one of the donated appliances to an 18-wheeler that was scheduled to travel the region Thursday delivering the donations. (Photo: Submitted photo)

Robertson County Director of Schools Mike Davis called the company tremendous business partner.

In addition to Thursday's donation, "they are also contributing in that they are hiring and employing many of the parents who have children in our schools, and that indirectly contributes to our tax base and our revenues, so we're very fortunate to have a company with international notoriety like Electrolux in our community," he said.

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