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American Packaging Corp. building new local plant

By: Velvet Spicer ☎ June 7, 2017

American Packaging Corp. has broken ground on a 350,000-square-foot manufacturing plant in Monroe County projected to lead to the creation of more than 260 full-time jobs in the next five years.

The family-owned, flexible packaging converter is investing \$170 million in the facility, while Empire State Development Corp. is kicking in up to \$14.7 million in performance-based incentives. The incentives include \$7.7 million in Upstate Revitalization Initiative grants and \$7 million in Excelsior Jobs Program tax credits.

Rochester Gas and Electric Corp. provided the company with up to \$870,000 in grant funding for infrastructure and the County of Monroe provided tax exemption benefits through the County of Monroe Industrial Development Agency.

"We are thrilled to be expanding our business in the Greater Rochester area," American Packaging president and CEO Peter Schottland said in a statement. "American Packaging is headquartered here and this is where my family calls home, so being able to grow here and provide great job opportunities in the area is so are particularly excited about."

In addition to the more than 250 added jobs, the facility will create more than 100 construction jobs as the 170 employees currently working at the company's Rochester plant are retained.

"Today's announcement that American Packaging Corp. (has) broken ground on a new manufacturing certainly exciting news for Monroe County. American Packaging's expansion in our area means more jobs for residents of our community and the retention of those currently employed by the company," said Sen. Robach, R-Greece. "With (its) focus on sustainability and the future, American Packaging is just another example of how Rochester and Monroe County is a leader in 21st century innovation."

The announcement complements Finger Lakes Forward, the region's blueprint to generate economic growth and community development. The state has invested more than \$3.4 billion in the region since 2012 to lay groundwork for the plan, investing in key industries including photonics, agriculture and food product and advanced manufacturing.

"RG&E is pleased to support American Packaging Corporation's continued growth and the benefits it brings to the region," RG&E President and CEO Mark Lynch said. "We are proud to be a key player in preserving jobs and creating new jobs to upstate New York through our long-standing economic development programs. The grant and tax credits are excellent catalysts to help businesses grow."

American Packaging had planned to construct its new plant near its facilities in Iowa, but opted to stay in the town of Chili as a result of the Upstate Revitalization and the Finger Lakes Forward strategic plan. The plant is expected to be operational by December 2017.

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