

PAIDC

Platteville Area Industrial Development Corporation



May, 2008

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L&M Corrugated Container Plans To Expand Platteville Operation

L&M Corrugated Container has announced their plans to double the size of their current facility to 48,000 square feet and also add an office addition to their facility at 32 Insight Drive over the next couple of years.

Means Drive is being extended to the east to accommodate the expansion. This extension is partially funded by a State of Wisconsin transportation grant.

"We love it here in Platteville and we are very happy with our new operation. The business is growing above our expectations. The workforce is great: we still have our first 5 employees from when we opened." said general manager Steve Lopes.



The extension of Means Drive is underway!!!



Left to right: Rick Lopes, L&M, (front) Dick Lopes, L&M, (back) State Senator Dale Schultz, Jim Schneller, PAIDC board, Steve Lopes, general manager L&M, Deb Weigel, PAIDC board, Kathy Kopp, PAIDC Board in front of the new corrugated container machine at the open house last year.

Lifeline Announces Expansion

A 4,000 square foot expansion will be added to the Lifeline facility to house their expanded manufacturing and warehousing for their nationally distributed sound systems and Midwest based sound/video/acoustical/theatrical lighting business according to president Scott Wright. Construction will begin in May and finish in July.



Lifeline's building will be expanded to the east at 41 Means Drive. This building also houses the Shopping News on the west side of the building.

Currently, Southwest Tech is working with 6 area businesses to train its leaders in Lean processes. Swiss Valley in Platteville has implemented Lean in the past six months, and as a result, cut its processing time in half. “What used to take us seven days to accomplish, we can now get it done in three and a half” stated Mike Green, plant manager at Swiss Valley, “these lean improvements do not require capital [to implement] it is all in your control.”

A large part of being lean is taking the time to map out the processes in your organization, allowing for easy identification of non-value added processes. “Mapping [out the process] forces you down the path of understanding what is happening in the process.” Once wasteful and non-value added activities are identified, it is a matter of developing methods that eliminate or reduce the waste in the process and make the necessary components of that process more efficient. Once a more efficient means is identified, it becomes the standard operating procedure.

In order for Lean to work, it must become part of the company culture to think Lean and act Lean, which means that the workers on the floor must be committed to the changes of the norms in the workplace. Mike estimates that 80% of the improvements that come from Lean practices are a result of cultural changes, while only 20% of the benefits result from changes in techniques and tools. “Lean is an investment in time and people, not necessarily capital” said Mike.

Not only has Swiss Valley seen an improvement in waste reduction in their processes, they have also seen a significant drop in employee turnover, and a significant improvement in their safety ratings. “We are breaking records” is said with a smile.

The Lean Certification program will be implementing another session starting in September. The year-long course is 75% grant funded, and they are currently looking for corporations to be involved in the next session. The courses are taught by Doris Pulvermacher, the Lean/Six Sigma instructor at Southwest Tech, and interested companies may contact the Workforce Training and Economic Development Department (WTED) at the college. Mike states that in addition to the three individuals from Swiss Valley currently in the class, he intends to send four to five of his employees to the next sessions to be certified.

Written by: Mary Schmidt, PAIDC Intern

Special Thanks to: Mike Green, Kevin Hanger, Joel Engelhart, and Doris Pulvermacher for contributing to this article.

Shell Building For Sale—Priced Below Replacement Value

- 24,000 square feet expandable to 48,000 square feet or more
- 3.122 acre lot
- Constructed June, 2002
- 24' at eaves, 28'2" at center



Industrial land for sale—shovel ready lots from 1 to 30 acres. Utilities at curb with excellent telecommunication capa-

Space Available in the Platteville Business Incubator—1,200 square feet light manufacturing space along with small office suites. Call Ed White at (608) 348-2758

**Did you know that Grant County has 7,000 commuters out of 50,000 residents?
Lots of available labor here and now!**

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Mark Your Calendar!

The ribbon cutting for the Avista Annex in the Platteville Business Incubator is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Friday, May 9. Come out and celebrate the expansion of one of our key Platteville businesses.