

130 new jobs likely at new Roscoe site



American Aluminum Extrusion Company's facility is seen in the Iron Works complex in downtown Beloit.
Staff photo by Clint Wolf

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ROSCOE — American Aluminum Extrusion Company (AAEC) has plans to bring 130 new jobs to the former Warner Electric Brake and Clutch site, 5253 McCurry Road, to grow and expand its manufacturing capabilities.

President and CEO of AAEC Sam Popa said that three new extrusion lines will be installed at the new site over the next three years. The Beloit plant at 1 St. Lawrence Ave., will remain and continue operations as usual.

Popa said AAEC has been highly successful and growing. Last year alone it grew by 25 percent, despite the struggling world economy. AAEC, which has been operating in Beloit for 10 years, needs to expand its manufacturing capacity, he said, but is currently landlocked in its Beloit facility so expansion in that location was not an option. Popa said the expansion project in Roscoe will strengthen AAEC overall and will benefit both locations.

AAEC is located in Beloit because entrepreneurs Ken and Diane Hendricks wanted to create jobs and fill empty manufacturing space in the community. They met Sam Popa, AAEC's President, in 2001 and believed in his vision and in his ability to start a new aluminum extrusion business in Beloit.

Diane Hendricks owns a majority interest in the company, and Hendricks Commercial Properties owns the building in Beloit.

Popa said that AAEC searched southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois for a facility that could accommodate the large footprint and future expansion potential that this business requires. He said Hendricks and AAEC find great value in rehabilitating and reviving unused real estate and equipment.

"It is part of our culture to improve and rehabilitate assets that already exist in our community instead of discarding the old and building from scratch," said Diane Hendricks, CEO of Hendricks Holding Company, Inc. "Our intention was to use an existing facility in the area and not build new construction, and the only feasible option in the area was the Warner Electric site."

Popa thanked his associates at American Aluminum Extrusion for making it so successful.

"They are the reason why we are here and succeeding," he said.

Popa said the Roscoe site will be operational by the end of 2011. There are currently 90 employees at the Beloit plant, and there will be an additional 130 employees added at the new site.

The village of Roscoe is in the process of setting up a tax incremental finance district on the property to help spur economic development.

The village will hold a press conference today at 4 p.m. to discuss plans for the site. Roscoe Village President Dave Krienke, Winnebago County Chairman Scott Christiansen, State Sen. Dave Syverson, State Rep. Dave Winters, State Rep. Joe Sosnowski, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Development Northern Stateline Regional Manager Jeff Polsean and other economic development officials are scheduled to attend.

American Aluminum Extrusion is a national supplier of quality aluminum extrusions, aluminum shapes and fabricated aluminum parts to companies in the transportation, distribution, building, linear motion and electronic OEM Markets.