

Manufacturing in the News

MAY 2009

TUES 05.13.09 Lee County companies bolster their ability to withstand recession

Laura Ruane, news-press.com

"We're introducing new products, and we're approaching our busiest time of the year," said Brian Rist, Storm Smart president and CEO, referring to the June 1 start of hurricane season. "The quicker we can deliver - at no sacrifice to quality - the more referrals we can get, and the more jobs we can do," Rist said. On Tuesday, workers at Storm Smart were plunged into clock assembly - a manufacturing task for which all were novices.

Full Article: <http://news-press.com/article/20090513/BUSINESS/905130369>

WED 05.13.09 Manufacturer moving from Buffalo to Jacksonville

Jacksonville Business Journal

A maker of science education equipment will move its operations from Buffalo, N.Y., to Nassau County by the end of the year. Science First/Starlab manufactures and markets items such as portable planetariums and water sampling equipment. The company was founded in 1960 and is in the third generation of family ownership. Science First will bring 20 jobs to Nassau County, ranging from entry-level positions to engineering and technical support.

Full Article: http://jacksonville.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/stories/2009/05/11/daily36.html?ed=2009-05-14&ana=e_du_pap

THURS 05.14.09 Fla. manufacturing company to add 226 jobs in NC

Dave Jordan, WITN News

Florida-based manufacturer that helps make wind turbines and other power-generating equipment plans to add 226 jobs to one of North Carolina's largest counties. Siemens Energy Inc. said Thursday that it will expand operations in Mecklenburg County by investing almost \$50 million and adding 226 jobs over the next five years. Gov. Beverly Perdue and Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory made the announcement Thursday at the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce. The Orlando, Fl.-based company was recently awarded a state job development grant. Officials said the grant that could yield the company almost \$3 million in benefits if it meets performance targets over the next nine years.

Full Article: <http://www.witn.com/home/headlines/45050377.html>

FRI 05.15.09 Planar seeks to reopen battery plant

Richard Bilbao, Orlando Business Journal

Planar Energy Devices Inc. is seeking \$56 million in federal stimulus funds to finance the purchase of a \$150 million shuttered lithium ion battery plant in Gainesville. Reopening the plant would produce up to 1,500 jobs the company said. The Orlando-based company filed an application May 15 with the U.S. Department of Energy to seek stimulus funds set aside for moving batteries into high-volume production.

- MON 05.25.09 Martin, St. Lucie students win 30 medals in SkillsUSA competition**
Monique Mattiace, TC Palm
Martin and St. Lucie county high school students brought home about 30 medals from the Florida SkillsUSA State Championships. Almost 60 students from both counties ranked in the April 20-22 statewide competition in Bradenton. The competition represented 130 different occupational areas.
Full Article: <http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2009/may/25/martin-st-lucie-students-win-30-metals-skillsusa-c/>
- THURS 05.28.09 Battery manufacturer eyes Cecil plant**
Jacksonville Business Journal
About 800 jobs could come to Jacksonville if an international manufacturer of high-tech batteries gets its wish to build a \$200 million facility at Cecil Commerce Center. **Saft America** is applying for a \$100 million grant through the federal stimulus package to build a facility that would produce lithium-ion cells and integrate batteries for a variety of uses.
Full Article: http://jacksonville.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/stories/2009/05/25/daily36.html?ed=2009-05-29&ana=e_du_pap
- FRI 05.29.09 Dutch supplier coming to Jacksonville**
Jacksonville Business Journal
Dutch supplier and manufacturer of food container products for planes and trains plans to open a distribution center in Jacksonville but isn't sure when. Direct Airflow co-owner John Reidy said he wasn't sure how many jobs will be created when the company comes to town. He said the company, which manufactures products ranging from trolleys to glass racks, would distribute finished goods from the Jacksonville facility to the rest of the country, South and Central America and Europe.
Full Article: http://jacksonville.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/stories/2009/05/25/daily43.html?ed=2009-05-29&ana=e_du_pap
- FRI 05.29.09 Cape Coral attracting businesses despite recession**
Denes Husty, News-Press
Cape Coral continues to attract and keep white collar and high tech firms despite the current recession. City officials are working with these firms — a German medical equipment manufacturer, an international maintenance company for power plant turbines and a global marketing company — to attract support businesses and similar companies.
Full article: <http://news-press.com/article/20090529/NEWS0101/90529050>