



MASON CITY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—

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**FORMER ALEXANDER MANUFACTURING PLANT TO BE HOME TO NEW
MANUFACTURING COMPANY**

MASON CITY BUSINESSMEN PARTNER TO BRING JOBS TO NORTH IOWA

MASON CITY – The site of a long-standing Mason City company has become the home of a three-company merger of plastic injection mold product companies that will result in new jobs for North Iowa.

John Ressler, a partner in the newly formed company, announced today that he and fellow Mason City businessman Stan Schultz, have gone into partnership to purchase the assets of a company in Alabama and another in Kansas to bring them to Mason City and merge them with Amazing Products, Inc., owned by Dick Westcott. The result of this merger is AmPro, Inc.

“We are excited to get into production and get everything settled in Mason City,” says Ressler, a Mason City insurance executive. “We think the merger of these companies makes good business sense and being able to develop this in Mason City makes it even better as far as Stan and I are concerned.”

The new company will be located in the facility that at one time housed hundreds of workers when it was home to Alexander Manufacturing. “We have purchased the facility and plan to continue hiring people as we need them. Our employment levels are hard to estimate at this time as so much of that depends upon how the convergence of these three companies goes. However, I would anticipate that our employment level after year one would be at least 15 full-time people,” says Ressler.

The new company will not be doing anything the three firms were not already doing on their own, but owners say that bringing them together in a modern facility will reduce costs and increase overall productivity. AmPro Line, the Alabama-based company has a 27-year history of developing plastic injection molded promotional products and has a national and Canadian customer base. KI-Line owns tooling and a patent on one of the most innovative lines of drinkware in the promotional products industry. Its products have been sold primarily on a regional basis in states adjacent to their Kansas location.

Local long-time manufacturer, Dick Westcott, owner of the former Westcott Industries, Inc. and most recently Amazing Products, Inc., says the merger of his company with the two out of state firms makes good sense. “The three companies complement one another very well and our products will be sold through distributors across the United States. With some 24,000 distributors, and a good relationship with major distributors like Newton Manufacturing and the Vernon Company both located here in Iowa, AmPro, Inc. is well positioned to get our products in the hands of consumers,” says Westcott, who will oversee the sales and marketing aspects of the new company and is also the president of the new venture.

The new company’s day-to-day operations will be lead by Manny Laidig, who is the retired CEO & Chairman of the Board of Newton Manufacturing Company, the promotional products distribution company which he took to \$50 million in sales during his tenure. He will serve as the vice-president of AmPro, Inc.

Ressler says he has been pleased with the local efforts to help he and his partners bring the project to fruition. “ Our bank, Wells Fargo, and the Mason City Economic Development Corporation have been instrumental in this project coming together. They have been good partners in the process.”

The company has already hired some production workers and that will continue as orders increase. Ressler says that they have been using the Iowa Workforce Development Center in Mason City for applicant flow and will continue to do so as the need for additional workers arises.

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