

For Immediate Release: November 18, 2009

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**FOOD MANUFACTURER PURCHASES FORMER KODAK BUILDING AND
EXPANDS OPERATIONS IN MONROE COUNTY**

LiDestri Foods pledges to bring 100 jobs to Greece, New York over the next 5 years

Empire State Development today announced that LiDestri Foods, Inc., headquartered in Fairport, New York and the country's largest private label manufacturer of tomato-based sauces, will purchase the former Eastman Kodak building referred to as Building 642, a 642,000 square foot facility located in the Town of Greece. The company will invest \$10 million to purchase and equip the former Kodak building in order to expand its current operations and workforce in New York State.

"This expansion of LiDestri Foods is a great example of the positive results we can achieve through strategic State investment. By leveraging existing resources, we are able to support the growth and expansion of local companies like LiDestri. Empire State Development will continue investing in our local companies and focusing our efforts on making the greatest use of our resources to ensure businesses can continue to grow and prosper through difficult financial times. I am very pleased that ESD could help ensure such an important manufacturer continues to compete and thrive right here in Monroe County."

LiDestri Foods, Inc. maintains a staff of 405 employees at its headquarters in Fairport. In addition to the Fairport location, LiDestri owns and operates additional operations in Fresno, California, Pennsauken, New Jersey and Dundee, New York. With the addition of the Greece facility, LiDestri will transfer some operations and positions from Dundee to Greece. As a result of this expansion, LiDestri anticipates adding 100 new full-time positions in New York State over the next five years.

Several variables contribute to LiDestri's need to expand, including the waste water capacity in Dundee and lack of space for additional production in Fairport. The purchase of Building 642 will allow LiDestri to significantly increase production and capacity, and in return, grow the company's customer base and revenue stream. Further, this expansion has tremendous value for Monroe County in that it rehabilitates and re-uses a vacant building with an important history for the region. To help offset the costs for this expansion project, the company will receive local and state incentives, including a \$1.5 million convertible loan from ESD.

LiDestri Foods President and Chief Executive Officer Giovanni LiDestri said: “We are very pleased to be able to expand in Monroe County. The tremendous infrastructure that exists in the region, the relatively low cost of Building 642, and most of all, the valuable work ethic of our region’s workforce, contribute remarkably to our ability to grow as a company.”

Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks said: “LiDestri Foods’ \$10.5 million expansion to the Eastman Business Park represents a great deal of investment in our community and highlights the increased momentum and strength our local economy. COMIDA is proud to partner with LiDestri in this job creation effort and I would like to thank John LiDestri for his ongoing commitment to growing and expanding his business in Monroe County.”

LiDestri Foods, with sales in excess of \$350 million, is one of Rochester’s most successful companies, having sustained continued growth through economic downturns. LiDestri manufactures pasta sauces, salsas, dips, spreads, oils, vinegars, cooking wines and high proof spirits. With manufacturing locations in New York, New Jersey and California, the company is the largest private label manufacturer of tomato sauces and salsas in the United States.

Empire State Development is New York’s chief economic development agency. ESD also oversees the marketing of “I LOVE NY,” the State’s iconic tourism brand. For more information, visit www.nylovesbiz.com.

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