

## **Empire State Development News**

### **Press Office**

Warner Johnston (ESD) | 212.803.3740  
wjohnston@empire.state.ny.us

[www.nylovesbiz.com](http://www.nylovesbiz.com)

### **FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE**

4/16/2009

## **EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT BOARD APPROVES \$8.3 MILLION IN GRANTS**

Empire State Development Corporation's Board of Directors met today in Buffalo and approved grants totaling \$8.3 million, leveraging \$15.5 million in private investments across New York State.

### *City-by-City*

Three City-by-City grants, which focus targeted investments to better respond to regional challenges in core cities across Upstate New York, were authorized by the board. These grants, totaling \$3.25 million, are made across the Upstate region.

#### Genesee Valley Agri-Business Park – \$2 million (Batavia, Genesee County)

This \$2 million City-by-City grant to the Genesee Gateway Local Development Corporation will be used toward land acquisition and infrastructure build-out in order to develop a new, agri-business industry-specific park at the Genesee Valley Agri-Business Park. The project, located adjacent to the O-AT-KA milk products facility, will capitalize on the strengths of Western New York's agri-business industry. Total project cost is \$5.9 million.

#### Bresee's Building Redevelopment – \$1 million (Oneonta, Otsego County)

The Bresee's Department Store building consists of 75,000 square feet of severely deteriorated space that would be best served as a mixed-use redevelopment project, including residential and commercial/retail uses, in the center of Oneonta's central business district. This \$1 million City-by-City grant will be used for a portion of demolition, rehabilitation, architectural and engineering fees and related soft costs. Total project cost is \$5.3 million.

#### Harza Building – \$250,000 (Utica, Oneida County)

The Harza Building is a six-story, 87,500 square-foot structure located near the corner of a major downtown Utica intersection in need of significant renovations to retain its current tenants, attract new tenants and secure this downtown landmark. The Utica Industrial Development Agency will receive \$250,000 to be used for the cost of a new roofing system. Total project cost is \$250,000.

#### Cox & Company – \$432,000 (Plainview, Nassau County)

The company, an industry leader in the design, development, manufacture and testing of advanced ice protection systems and temperature control products for aerospace and commuter railroad applications, will relocate and expand the company's Manhattan manufacturing facility to a 90,000 square-foot leased building in Plainview. A grant of up to \$432,000 will be used toward a portion of leasehold improvements, relocation and installation and purchase of machinery and equipment costs. Total project cost is \$8.5 million.

*Restore New York*

Two Restore New York Community Initiative grants, which revitalize urban areas and stabilize neighborhoods as a means to attract residents and businesses, were authorized by the board. These grants, totaling more than \$500,000, are made to municipalities across the State, including:

The City of Fulton – \$333,000 (Oswego County)

The City received a \$333,000 grant to be used toward the rehabilitation of two key vacant properties along the Route 481 Corridor, the main arterial through the City, to continue downtown revitalization. Economic impacts of the project include the creation of up to five new retail stores, increased sales tax revenue and the creation of an estimated 30 new jobs in the central business district. Total project cost is \$1.5 million.

The Village of Owego – \$180,000 (Tioga County)

This project involves the rehabilitation and the residential and commercial occupancy of the upper floors of the two properties on Lake Street in the Village's historic central business district. Total project cost is \$200,000.

Town of Romulus – Modification of General Project Plan (Seneca County)

The board also modified the general project plan previously approved in April 2008 for a \$2.5 million Restore II grant to the Town of Romulus. New York State Electric & Gas has committed to fund a large power line to the project location and will be reimbursed for a portion of the infrastructure costs.

The following businesses were awarded Economic Development Fund (EDF) Grants, totaling \$320,000:

- Southern Graphic Systems Inc. (Phoenix, Oswego County) was awarded \$70,000 to be used toward a portion of machinery and equipment purchases and installation costs. The \$875,000 project will retain 26 jobs.
- Nestle Purina PetCare Company (Dunkirk, Chautauqua County) was awarded \$50,000 to be used toward a portion of a \$372,875 productivity improvement project.
- Ontario Plastics Inc. (Rochester, Monroe County) was awarded \$40,000 to be used toward a portion of a \$125,700 productivity improvement project.
- Rem-tronics Inc. (Silver Creek, Chautauqua County) was awarded \$40,000 to be used towards a portion of a \$131,051 productivity improvement project.
- Cris Ray Printing (Farmingdale, Suffolk County) was awarded \$40,000 to be used toward a portion of a \$205,333 productivity improvement project.
- Dielectric Laboratories Inc. (Cazenovia, Madison County) was awarded \$40,000 to be used toward a portion of a \$225,360 productivity improvement project.
- JT Precision Inc. (Baker, Niagara County) was awarded \$113,366 to be used toward a portion of a \$205,333 productivity improvement project.
- Wolf-tec Inc. (Kingston, Ulster County) was awarded \$15,000 to be used toward a portion of costs associated with the company's attendance at the Process Expo 2008 in Chicago, Illinois. Total project cost is \$50,000.

In addition, the ESD Board of Directors authorized the following measures:

Agreement with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey – \$3.8 million

The board entered in an agreement with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey for funding from the Bi-State Dredging Fund for rental expenses for American Stevedoring Inc. The board approved a grant for \$3.8 million of the \$4.1 million previously made available for future economic

initiatives at the Brooklyn Waterfront to be used as credit against current rent arrearages and rent payable through the month of February 2009 and separate activities rentals owing to PANY&NJ by ASI through December 31, 2008.

#### Agreement with Enhanced Community Development L.L.C.

The board entered into an agreement with Enhanced Community Development L.L.C. (ECD) to operate a New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program in New York State if ECD is successful in its application to the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund for a 2009 allocations of new market tax credits. The NMTC program provides tax credits for certain investments made in low-income areas. NMTCs are allocated on a competitive basis by the CDFI Fund of the U.S. Treasury Department.

#### Reauthorization of a Shoreline I Project Construction Loan

The board re-authorized an \$11 million construction loan for the Shoreline I Project in Buffalo, Erie County, eliminating the potential \$2.5 million participation with HSBC Bank. Upon completion of the anticipated two-year construction period, ESD will receive repayment of approximately \$5 million from equity proceeds and/or Housing Trust Funds.

#### Authorization of Contracts

The board authorized ESD to enter into separate contracts with Ronco Communications and Electronics, M&K Internetworking and Security Services and Hewlett-Packard Company for systems upgrades. Critical upgrades to ESD's data and communications systems have become necessary due to the expanding storage needs of ESD coupled with the obsolescence of dedicated hardware and software.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will tentatively be held on Thursday, May 21 at a location to be announced closer to the time of the event.

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](http://www.nylovesbiz.com).

###