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**EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTS SEVEN COMPANIES GROW  
OPERATIONS IN WESTERN NEW YORK**

*Capital investments totaling over \$1126 million will result in the retention of nearly 1,800 jobs  
and the creation of 330 new jobs for the region*

Empire State Development (ESD) today announced that seven companies will grow and expand their operations throughout the Western New York region. Collectively, these companies will make capital investments totaling \$112.6 million, resulting in 1,785 jobs being retained and the creation of 329 new full-time jobs. ESD has awarded a total of \$5.75 million in loans and grants to assist these companies with their expansion projects.

“During challenging fiscal and economic times, it is very encouraging to see so many local companies expanding their business and operations,” said ESD Chairman & CEO Dennis M. Mullen. “Governor Paterson and ESD have made it a priority to make New York State a place where companies can grow, invest, innovate and create jobs. I am pleased that ESD was able to assist such a wide breadth of businesses—from small to large, and across various industries—cultivate and succeed in Western New York, from Niagara to Cattaraugus County and everywhere in between.”

The seven companies investing in Western New York, include:

**Praxair, Inc.**

Praxair will be completely redeveloping and upgrading their current transportation logistics system in order to ensure there is no disruption to their business. This project also involves the development and implementation of a new transportation logistics center for the coordination of all three North American operations located in Tonawanda, Canada and Mexico. The company will invest a total of \$24.7 million and will retain 700 jobs at their Tonawanda location. ESD has awarded the company a \$1 million capital grant to help offset costs. Praxair services approximately 9,000 customers throughout North America.

**Steuben Foods, Inc.**

Steuben Foods, a leader in Extended Shelf Life products, has been steadily growing their Elma facility, investing approximately \$30 million over the past six years. The company is now embarking on a new Aseptic bottling and packaging line, where they will begin manufacturing

plastic bottles in addition to expanding Tetra Pak and Cryovak high-speed filling and packaging equipment. This \$52 million project will take Steuben Foods to the next level of Aseptic packaging, allowing the products to be stored for long periods without refrigeration. As a result of this investment, the company will retain 426 jobs and create 150 new full-time positions. ESD is offering Steuben Foods a \$2.5 million capital grant as reimbursement for a portion of machinery & equipment costs. The company also received low-cost power from the New York Power Authority (NYPA).

### **PCB Piezotronics**

PCB Piezotronics is a manufacturer of sensors and related instrumentation for the aerospace, defense, automotive, power generation and environmental industries throughout the world. One of the largest privately held companies in Western New York, PCB has locations in North Carolina, Utah, California, Washington and Michigan. The company has a combined staff of 513 employees between its 110,000 square foot headquarters in Depew and a 24,000 square foot machining facility in Lackawanna. As PCB's Depew location is at full capacity with no room for expansion, the company is investing \$3.67 million to purchase and equip a 50,000 square foot building adjacent to their Walden Avenue manufacturing facility. PCB will consolidate machine operations presently conducted in the Depew and Lackawanna facilities into this new building, increasing manufacturing efficiencies and freeing up 15,000 square feet at headquarters. The company's 513 current employees will be retained and an additional 50 full-time positions will be created. ESD has awarded PCB a \$500,000 capital grant for this project, which is expected to be completed in May 2011.

### **Metaullics Systems**

A division of Pyrotek Incorporated, Metaullics Systems is a carbon and graphite manufacturer, specializing in the development of high-temperature materials for industrial applications. Located in Sanborn, the company will invest \$22.7 million to construct a 93,000 square foot building that will house twelve new high temperature heat treatment electric furnaces and ancillary processing and handling equipment in order to manufacture anode materials for lithium batteries. This new line of products would be used primarily in the electric and hybrid automobile market, as well as in other defense and aerospace applications. As a result of this new investment, the company will retain its current 54 employees and create an additional 57 full-time jobs. ESD helped fund the project with a \$650,000 Upstate Regional Blueprint Fund convertible loan. Metaullics Systems will also receive local and state tax benefits, as well as assistance from the U.S. Department of Energy, the New York State Office of Community Renewal (OCR), NYPA and National Grid.

### **Empire Genomics**

Formed in 2006 at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, Empire Genomics, LLC is a specialized genetic services testing firm that operates in the In-Vitro Diagnostic industry. The company serves the Pharmaceutical, Biotechnology, Molecular Diagnostics and Medical Research markets around the world, and has significant expertise in genomic research. It is from this strong experiential base that they have developed capabilities, tools and techniques to support research that permits the earlier detection of diseases and cures based on genetics. Presently, Empire Genomics has grown beyond its current capacity and, as a result, will be investing \$2.85 million to create a new corporate headquarters in the heart of Buffalo's life sciences corridor on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus. The company will retain its current staff of eight employees and create an additional 31 high-paying positions over the next 3 years.

This expansion will allow the company to streamline current operations in order to meet growing demand. Certified in the Buffalo Empire Zone, Empire Genomics will receive a \$400,000 Upstate Regional Blueprint convertible loan from ESD.

### **Audubon Machine Corp.**

Headquartered in North Tonawanda, Audubon Machinery Corporation is a diversified renewable energy manufacturer, producing oxygen-generating systems for industrial and medical applications (OGSI); cage and rackwashing equipment for life sciences research; solar panels and wind turbines; and calibration and test equipment for solar panel manufacturers and installers for power generation applications. The company will be expanding its existing manufacturing operations to include a new larger “micro” wind turbine at its 42,000 square foot Niagara County facility. Audubon Machinery will invest \$1.4 million in this new line, retaining 44 employees and creating an additional 32 positions. ESD has offered the company a \$300,000 Upstate Regional Blueprint subsidized loan in order to assist with the construction and building renovations, as well as machinery and equipment costs. The company also received financial assistance from OCR.

### **SolEpoxy, Inc.**

SolEpoxy, Inc. will invest \$5.35 million to purchase and acquire the Olean plant formerly owned and operated by Henkel Loctite, a large multinational chemical firm that manufactures speciality dry epoxy materials. This acquisition will allow SolEpoxy to acquire the buildings (260,000 square feet) and land (8.4 acres), manufacturing line machinery and equipment; 30,000 square feet of fully equipped laboratories for research & development and product certification. SolEpoxy will manufacture three specialty products that are part of the acquisition, as well as manufacture another product line for Henkel until the end of 2011. The company will retain Henkel’s current 40 full-time employees and create an additional nine full-time positions. SolEpoxy will also retain 18 contract employees until the end of 2011, when the product line associated with these employees will move to South Carolina. ESD has awarded the company a \$400,000 capital grant to help offset costs for the acquisition of machinery and equipment. In addition, SolEpoxy will receive assistance from Cattaraugus and Chautauqua counties, and the Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board.

Empire State Development is New York’s chief economic development agency and administrator of the statewide business resource portal New York First ([www.NYfirst.NY.gov](http://www.NYfirst.NY.gov)). ESD is committed to being recognized on a global scale as the economic development engine driving job growth, strategic investment and prosperity in New York State. ESD is intent on paving the way for New York State to become the leader of the innovation economy and one of the most business friendly, productive and competitive economic development climates in the world. ESD also oversees the marketing of “I LOVE NY,” the State’s iconic tourism brand. For more information on Empire State Development, visit [www.esd.ny.gov](http://www.esd.ny.gov).

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