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EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES KOPPERS CHOCOLATE TO OPEN NEW FACTORY IN BROOKLYN

New Facility Will Create Jobs and Nearly Double Company's Size

Empire State Development (ESD) today announced that Koppers Specialty Chocolate Company will continue making gourmet chocolates and specialty confections in New York City. The company plans to grow significantly – increasing hiring and retaining all 35 current employees, as it relocates and expands from its Greenwich Village location to Sunset Park, Brooklyn.

“By expanding and creating these new manufacturing jobs, Koppers will nearly double the number of people it employs,” said ESD President, CEO, and Commissioner Howard Zemsky. “It’s wonderful that Koppers Chocolate, a homegrown, family-owned, New York business, will continue to thrive and grow in the New York State.”

Koppers has been producing award-winning panned chocolates, also known as “dragees” (pronounced “dra-zshay”) since 1937, in Greenwich Village. The company formerly occupied 30,000 square feet, over six floors, at 39 Clarkson Street, Manhattan, where it employed 35 people. Koppers is moving into a 50,000-square-foot space in Liberty View Plaza, 850 Third Ave., Brooklyn, and will invest more than \$4 million, in renovations and equipment purchases, to outfit the facility for chocolate making.

“We are very excited to be moving to the Liberty Building in Sunset Park,” said Jeff Alexander, a principal of Koppers Chocolate. “It is a beautiful, state-of-the-art building, with wonderful owners, and will enable us not only to maintain the highest quality production, but to have efficiencies, and grow our business. We are a third generation, totally family-owned and run company, and we see our staff as part of our extended family, so finding a new location that our employees could easily get to was of paramount concern. We simply did not have enough space at our Manhattan facility, so this move is what our business needed to grow. And as exciting as it has been to produce right in the heart of the West Village of Manhattan for 80 years, Brooklyn has become such a hotbed for artisanal gourmet food production, including chocolates. In

many ways, our new location has much of the same vibe as Greenwich Village did when we first started there so many years ago – attracting creative people, with a wonderful, diverse workforce. We are just so happy we could work it out to stay in New York City, and Empire State Development was so helpful in that regard.”

ESD has offered Koppers up to \$556,000 in performance-based Excelsior Jobs Program Tax Credits. The company agreed to create at least 27 new full-time jobs over the next five years, to keep them through at least 2025, and to retain its entire New York City workforce. Prior to making the decision to remain in New York, Koppers considered relocating to Carlstadt, New Jersey among other places.

Koppers Chocolate is a third-generation, private, family-owned-and-run business, and world-renowned panner of gourmet chocolates and specialty confections. Panning is a method of chocolate or candy coating, which involves rolling some sort of a “center” (e.g., a roasted nut, a dried fruit piece...) and then slowly adding layers of fine chocolate on top, until it takes the approximate shape and appearance of a small, chocolate ball. Koppers produces over 450 different paned chocolates. Despite producing the world’s widest array of gourmet paned chocolate, Koppers remains a boutique, artisanal manufacturer, producing in small batches, often to order for specific customers.

About Empire State Development

Empire State Development is New York’s chief economic development agency. The mission of ESD is to promote a vigorous and growing economy, encourage the creation of new job and economic opportunities, increase revenues to the State and its municipalities, and achieve stable and diversified local economies. Through the use of loans, grants, tax credits, and other forms of financial assistance, ESD strives to enhance private business investment and growth to spur job creation and support prosperous communities across New York State. ESD is also the primary administrative agency overseeing Governor Cuomo’s Regional Economic Development Councils and the marketing of “I Love NY,” the State’s iconic tourism brand. For more information on Regional Councils and Empire State Development, visit www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov and www.esd.ny.gov.

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