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EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES OPTIMAX SYSTEMS, INC. TO UPGRADE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS IN WAYNE COUNTY

Precision Optical Lens, Prism and Mirror Manufacturer Grows Business In The Finger Lakes Region, Will Create 35 New Jobs

Investment Complements “Finger Lakes Forward” – Region’s Successful Upstate Revitalization Initiative Blueprint to Grow the Economy and Create New Opportunities

Empire State Development (ESD) today announced that technology firm Optimax Systems Inc., located in the Town of Ontario, Wayne County, is expanding its research and development operations. The expansion will enable the company to create 35 new jobs and retain 271 existing positions.

Empire State Development President, CEO & Commissioner Howard Zemsky said, “With its extensive and skilled workforce, the Finger Lakes Region is the perfect environment for Optimax Systems to continue to grow its operations. Thanks to Governor Cuomo’s leadership, New York has a significantly improved business climate for high-tech manufacturers, resulting in busy companies serving a global client base and creating jobs across the state, bolstering our innovation economy.”

Optimax Systems, Inc., founded in 1991, has been ahead of the curve in progress in technologies as diverse as fiber optic telecommunications, solid-state lighting, digital photography, displays, and diagnostic medicine. They have worked key programs in aerospace, government research, and defense.

Optimax Systems, Inc. President Mike Mandina said, “Optimax competes with firms worldwide in the precision optics market. By investing in and developing state of the art capabilities, we are able to provide high-end solutions to our customers. This investment has enabled Optimax to grow in spite of regional and global economic headwinds. We are thankful for the ESD support that has helped make this \$3 million expansion possible.”

Optimax Systems Inc. will purchase equipment from QED, a Rochester- based company; and plan to buy IBS coating capabilities from a vendor in Germany, which will

allow the company to manufacture aspheres. The expanded operations, with support from ESD, will allow Optimax to raise the bar when it comes to supplying higher tolerated optics for its customers and will help the company solidify its brand and credibility in the world wide optics manufacturing community.

In order to encourage Optimax Systems to expand in the Finger Lakes, ESD has offered a grant of up to \$250,000 in return for job creation commitments. Those commitments include the creation of 35 new jobs by 2019 and the retention of hundreds of existing jobs. Additionally, the company will invest more than \$3 million in the project.

State Senator Mike Nozzolio said, “For years, Optimax has been a leading economic driver in our region by providing job opportunities for individuals in Wayne County and the greater Finger Lakes region. Optimax is a leading innovator and a great contributor to the community. Their expansion is great news for our area and I was pleased to work with Governor Cuomo on this important initiative.”

Assemblyman Robert Oaks said, “For more than a decade, Optimax has been an anchor for high-tech jobs in the optics industry for our area. I am pleased to see Empire State Development Corp. recognize the company’s commitment and dedication to expansion .The \$250,000 for new equipment that will secure 35 new jobs during the next three years will keep Optimax on the path for growth and offer opportunity for employment to those interested in this exciting industry.

For more information about Optimax Systems, Inc., please click [here](#)

Accelerating Finger Lakes Forward

Today's announcement complements “Finger Lakes Forward,” the region’s comprehensive blueprint to generate robust economic growth and community development. The State has already invested more than \$3.4 billion in the region since 2012 to lay the groundwork for the plan – investing in key industries including photonics, agriculture and food production, and advanced manufacturing. Today, unemployment is down to the lowest levels since before the Great Recession; personal and corporate income taxes are down; and businesses are choosing places like Rochester, Batavia and Canandaigua as a destination to grow and invest in. Now, the region is accelerating Finger Lakes Forward with a \$500 million State investment through the Upstate Revitalization Initiative, announced by Governor Cuomo in December 2015. The State’s \$500 million investment will incentivize private business to invest well over \$2.5 billion – and the region’s plan, as submitted, projects up to 8,200 new jobs. More information is available [here](#).

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 <http://www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov> and www.esd.ny.gov.

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