

Empire State Development News

Press Office

Warner Johnston, 212.803.3740

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

11/20/2008

ESD BOARD APPROVES \$7.3 MILLION IN GRANTS AND LOANS

Empire State Development's Board of Directors met today in New York City and approved \$7.3 million in grants and loans. These grants and loans, leveraging \$135 million in private investment, will preserve 1,930 jobs and promise the creation of 499 additional jobs across New York State.

Six Economic Development Fund projects, aimed at spurring economic growth, will leverage approximately \$136.3 million in private investment across the State, resulting in the retention of 1,069 jobs and the pledge of 191 additional jobs. Grants presented for approval today included:

[The Roycroft Campus Corporation –\\$1.5 million \(East Aurora, Erie County\)](#)

The not-for-profit corporation, established to restore the Roycroft Campus, which was modeled after the English Arts and Crafts Movement, received a \$1.5 million grant to rebuild the shell of the Power House building as it was originally constructed on the Roycroft Campus in the late 1800s. The \$3 million project will retain 97 jobs and create 13 additional jobs.

[The Hartford Fire Insurance Company – \\$500,000 \(Clinton, Oneida County\)](#)

The company, the oldest subsidiary of Hartford Financial Services and which operates in the property and casualty areas, received a \$500,000 grant for construction and outfitting of a new facility as part of a \$23 million project consolidating the operations of two existing facilities. The project will retain 689 jobs.

[Felix Schoeller Technical Papers – \\$400,000 \(Pulaski, Oswego County\)](#)

The company, which produces high caliber specialty paper, received a \$400,000 grant for building improvements and the purchase and installation of machinery and equipment necessary for the addition of three new converting lines. The upgrades are expected to result in a 30 percent sales increase. The \$4 million project will retain 110 jobs and create 96 additional jobs.

[Starfire Systems – \\$325,000 \(Malta, Saratoga County\)](#)

The company received a grant of \$325,000, to be applied toward the purchase of machinery and equipment, from ESD's Manufacturing Assistance Program, which encourages manufacturers to invest in projects that will better their operations. Starfire researches, develops and manufactures high performance nanostructured silicon carbide-based products and materials from patented ceramic-forming liquid polymers. The nearly \$3.2 million project will retain 28 jobs and create 22 additional jobs.

[FAGE USA Dairy Industry Inc. – \\$300,000 \(Johnstown, Fulton County\)](#)

The company, a producer of Greek yogurt which created the first network of mass-produced yogurt, received a \$300,000 grant for the purchase of real estate and for construction and equipping of a new yogurt processing and distribution facility. The \$93 million project will create 60 jobs as a means to increase distribution in the United States.

[Landis Plastics Inc. – \\$141,000 \(Solvay, Onondaga County\)](#)

The company, which specializes in the production of customer molded plastic food containers and lids for manufacturers, received a \$141,000 grant for the acquisition of machinery and equipment and plant improvements as part of a strategic upgrade to its manufacturing facility. This \$13.3 million project will retain 145 jobs.

Three Restore New York Community Initiative grants, which revitalize urban areas and stabilize neighborhoods as a means to attract residents and businesses, were also authorized by the ESD Board. These grants, totaling more than \$3 million, were made to municipalities across New York State, including:

- The City of Rochester in Monroe County, which received a \$1.9 million grant to be used for a portion of the cost of demolishing vacant structures that cannot be revitalized, as part of an initiation to build new housing to attract new residents and retain current households, particularly middle income individuals and families. Total project cost is nearly \$2.5 million.
- The Village of Hempstead in Nassau County, which received a \$585,000 grant to aid in a portion of the cost of rehabilitating three buildings in the downtown area. It is expected that the new business will bring foot traffic back to downtown Hempstead, create jobs and add a positive shopping and dining experience. Total project cost is \$954,000.
- The City of Cohoes in Albany County, which received a \$544,900 grant to aid in the cost of construction and rehabilitation of a 21,000 square foot commercial-retail space. The development will regenerate the area and reestablish new and improved infrastructure. Total project cost is more than \$1 million.

In addition, the directors approved the following:

iQor Inc. –\$500,000 (Cheektowaga, Erie County)

The company, which provides call center services for 19 Centers of Excellence in five countries and four continents, received a Jobs Now grant totaling \$500,000 for the build-out of 30,000 square feet of office space and the acquisition and installation of fixtures, furniture and equipment. The total project cost is \$1.3 million and will retain 50 jobs and create 250 additional jobs.

Datrose – \$200,000 (Webster, Monroe County)

The data-entry company received a \$200,000 loan from the Minority and Women Owned Business Development and Lending Program, which provides loans to minority and women-owned businesses for the acquisition or improvement of real property, or the purchase of machinery or equipment. The loan proceeds will help Datrose expand its current facility, renovate an existing warehouse and purchase machinery and equipment to create a new operations center associated with increased business. The \$1 million project will retain 420 jobs and create an additional 30 positions, as well as capture new business.

Griffiss Local Development Corporation – \$150,000 (Rome, Oneida County)

The not-for-profit corporation charged with facilitating and coordinating the redevelopment efforts of the Griffiss Business and Technology Park, the site of a former military base, received a \$150,000 Base Retention Project grant, to be used for the cost of acquisition, replacement and relocation of equipment from Bay No. 4 into the Air Force Research Lab's "mod and fab" shop. The total project cost is \$150,000.

The Board also approved two projects sponsored by the Legislative and Executive Branches related to the development of the Luther Forest Technology Campus in the towns of Malta and Stillwater (Saratoga County). A grant of up to \$940,000 to the Luther Forest Technology Campus Economic Development Corporation will go toward legal work, project management, business development and marketing associated with the LFTEDC's continued efforts to achieve shovel readiness and attract chip fabrication tenants to the campus. A grant of up to \$30.3 million to the LFTEDC is to be used to fund construction of electric transmission lines and the Cold Spring Road corridor. Those infrastructure elements are a prerequisite for the development of a new chip fabrication facility at the campus.

In the consent calendar portion of the meeting, where directors authorize grants for ESD assistance of \$100,000 and under, grants totaling \$210,000 for general development financing were approved, including:

- New York Air Brake (Watertown, Jefferson County), a supplier of innovative train control systems for the railroad industry, received a \$100,000 MAP grant to be used for a portion of the cost of machinery and equipment. The \$1.2 million project will retain 343 jobs.
- LS&S LLC (Buffalo, Erie County), a family-owned wholesale medical supplier of products for the visually impaired and hard of hearing, received an \$85,000 grant to be used for a portion of the cost of machinery and equipment for a new facility. The \$1.97 million project will create 26 positions.
- STK Electronics (Cazenovia, Madison County), doing business as Pelco Component Technologies, a manufacturer and distributor of electronic components, received a \$25,000 grant to be used for a portion of the cost of machinery and equipment. The more than \$100,000 project will retain 48 jobs and create an additional two positions. _

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will tentatively be held on Wednesday, December 17, at a location to be announced closer to the time of the event. _

Empire State Development is New York's chief economic development agency, encompassing business, workforce and community development. ESD also oversees the marketing of "I LOVE NY," the State's iconic tourism brand. For more information, visit www.nylovesbiz.com.

###