



News Release

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Mid-states Aluminum Corp. has announced a project that will net the community 24 new jobs over the next two years -- and that's in addition to the 30 the company has added since 2004.

The new positions are due to a renovation and expansion project centered on a new anodizing line at the company, located at 132 Trowbridge Drive in Fond du Lac. (See sidebar for more information on the anodizing process.)

The financial investment in the new equipment will allow the company to gain capacity and offer additional services to its customers. "We will be able to expand our potential capabilities," said Bob Sippel, chief financial officer for Mid-States Aluminum Corp. "As an example, we presently offer four main colors of our products. We'll now have the space and capability to add an additional four colors to better serve our customers."

Updating the equipment will also mean that the additional workforce will have a bit more elbow room in their everyday work environment.

"It will definitely be more spacious, and we are incorporating other changes that will increase our efficiency," said Sippel.

One of those improvements is a water recycling system that will translate to 60 percent of the water used at the facility being recycled rather than disposed of. More efficient gas and electric systems are also slated for the project, which Sippel estimates is currently about two-thirds done and will be completed in mid-January.

The project costs were assisted by Wisconsin Department of Commerce Community Development Zone Tax Credits and loans from the City of Fond du Lac, Redevelopment Authority of the City of Fond du Lac and the Fond du Lac County Revolving Loan Funds, which administered by Fond du Lac County Economic Development Corporation. FCEDC also provided existing business development services to the company to facilitate the project.

"The expertise and contacts offered by the FCEDC helped us navigate through the business development programs offered at the state, county and city levels," said Sippel. "The tax credits and low interest loans we are receiving are allowing us to make our largest expansion in Fond du Lac. Once complete, this project will allow us to grow our business by increasing capacity, reducing lead times and adding to our product offerings."

Sippel emphasized the company's dedication to continuing to do business in Fond du Lac and its commitment to a solid future for its employees.

"The old anodizing line was a large business risk because of its age and condition," said Sippel. "We simply eliminated that risk. This (project) puts us in a position to continue to grow for the next seven to ten years."

Sidebar:

What is Anodizing?

Over time, as aluminum is exposed to oxygen in the air, it naturally develops a thin, transparent, porous oxide layer on its surface. Anodizing is an electro-chemical process that accelerates this process, and produces an even thicker and tougher oxide layer than would normally occur.

Since the anodizing process occurs on the surface atoms themselves, the anodic coating becomes an integral part of the aluminum surface. Thus, it prevents further oxidation, and greatly extends the life of the aluminum.

ANODIC - OXIDE LAYER

