

JDS Technologies, Inc. Expanding Operations into Winfield

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Nashville, TN (2018-03-12) JDS Technologies, Inc., which has expanded multiple times at its facility in Oneida, has formally announced its second manufacturing facility in Scott County, which will provide another 54,000 square feet of manufacturing space for the company and create over 100 jobs over the next five years.

On Monday, Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam, Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bob Rolfe, and Jerry and Diane Slaven of JDS Technologies, Inc., officially announced that the rubber and plastics manufacturer will expand its operations here.

JDS Technologies will invest \$2.2 million to establish a new manufacturing operation in Winfield and create approximately 110 new jobs during the next five years. The new operation in Winfield will be JDS Technologies' second manufacturing plant in Scott County.



Danny King, Chairman of the IDB of Winfield, and Jerry Slaven, owner of JDS Technologies, Inc., sign the lease agreement on the former ABC Building in Winfield.

“I’d like to thank JDS Technologies for its commitment to create more than 100 jobs in Scott County,” Haslam said. “It’s encouraging to see a local employer like JDS Technologies creating jobs that will have a profound impact on Scott County and its residents,” he added.

“One of TNECD’s priorities is to elevate the 19 Tennessee counties currently designated as distressed to sustainable levels of economic growth,” Rolfe said. “JDS Technologies’ plan to create more than 100 jobs in Winfield is a critical step to achieving this goal in Scott County.”

JDS Technologies designs and manufactures a comprehensive range of custom rubber and plastic-molded products, including metal stampings. JDS Technologies supplies companies in the appliance, automotive, gas and

oil, aerospace and medical device industries. The company currently operates a 105,000-square-foot facility in Oneida.

JDS Technologies' new operation in Winfield will accommodate additional business activity and new product lines. The manufacturer plans to acquire and fully refurbish the former American Bag Company building in Winfield. The partnership will also bring new life to a manufacturing facility that has been dormant for more than 14 years.

"JDS Technologies has numerous new products and has increased their market share on many existing products," Jerry and Diane Slaven said. "After searching for a place to expand our operations, we eventually determined this new location in Scott County would best meet the needs of our company's growth. This is an important step for JDS Technologies and we're proud to show our commitment to Scott County and its residents by expanding with this new facility in Winfield," they added.

The Slavens considered several locations outside Scott County, and almost committed to expanding elsewhere, but changed their minds after seeing the Winfield facility. "After a site visit it was determined that bringing this facility back to life would be beneficial to JDS Technologies, Winfield and Scott County," Jerry Slaven said.

"While JDS Technologies could have chosen to expand anywhere in the U.S. or abroad, we're humbled by its decision to expand in our small community," Winfield Mayor V. David Cecil said. "Jerry and Diane Slaven are true community partners. They have not only invested millions of dollars into brick and mortar and equipment but have also injected hundreds of thousands of dollars in wages and private donations into our rural area."

In anticipation of continued growth, JDS Technologies began looking for a new location in the first quarter of 2017. Members of the Industrial Development Board of the Town of Winfield and representatives from the town began talks with the company in early summer. Those negotiations continued in earnest and resulted in the execution of a lease agreement in December. With assistance from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, JDS Technologies and the Town have been busy repairing damage to the facility caused by time and vandalism.

"Having invested millions of dollars in our local economy since 2004, JDS Technologies was already a major employer and economic partner in Scott County," Danny King, chairman of the Industrial Development Board of the Town of Winfield, said. "Today's announcement affirms Jerry and Diane Slaven's commitment to our community and the hardworking people of rural Tennessee."



JDS Technologies, Inc. will expand operations into the former ABC Building in Winfield; providing the company with 54,000 sq. ft. of additional manufacturing space. The company will hire up to 110 workers over the next five years.

After acquiring the building from Milliken Design Group in 2015, the IDB had been looking near and far for a tenant, but ultimately found the perfect match in its own backyard—an industry with a proven record of sustainable employment and a heart for the community. “We are proud of and appreciate Scott County and its residents. What better way to show our appreciation than to further expand in Scott County,” the Slavens commented.

“The agreement with JDS Technologies will open a new chapter for the community,” said Paul Strunk, Director of Economic and Community Development for the Town of Winfield. “In addition to new jobs, the project should also encourage retail growth and increase sales tax revenues for the town,” he added.

Monday’s announcement was the result of a collaboration between local, state and federal partners. “Without the help of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, Appalachian Regional Commission, Tennessee Valley Authority, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Winfield, and the IDBs of both Winfield and Scott County, it would not have been possible,” Strunk said.

“The Scott County Industrial Development Board congratulates JDS Technologies on its expansion in Scott County,” Jim Swann, chairman of the Scott County Industrial Development Board, said. “The company’s management and employees have proven through their hard work that businesses can not only survive, but prosper in the rural counties of this state.”

The Industrial Development Board of the Town of Winfield purchased the former American Bag Company building in 2015 with grant funding provided by Appalachian Regional Commission and local funding secured by the Town of Winfield. The grant was initially awarded to the Industrial Development Board of Scott County to purchase a property in Helenwood, but the facility was sold prior to the funding announcement. The county then transferred the grant to Winfield, which changed the scope of the grant to purchase the Winfield facility.

During the renovation process, Tennessee Valley Authority provided resources and funding to retrofit some of the existing lighting at the facility. “TVA and Plateau Electric Cooperative congratulate JDS Technologies on its decision to expand and create new job opportunities in Scott County,” TVA Senior Vice President of Economic Development John Bradley said.

Winfield and Scott County are represented by Sen. Ken Yager (R – Kingston) and Rep. Kelly Keisling (R – Byrdstown).

JDS Technologies has already installed more than a dozen compression presses at the facility and has immediate openings for production, machining, maintenance, tool shop, and quality control workers. The facility will operate around the clock, Monday through Friday. Employee benefits will include: paid holidays, paid vacation, employer paid medical insurance, and employee referral bonuses. Interested persons should apply in person at the Winfield plant, located at 26576 Scott Highway, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.