

FWE announces expansion of manufacturing facility in Portland, Tenn.

More than 100 new jobs expected

Crystal Lake, Ill. - Food Warming Equipment Co., Inc. (FWE), a worldwide supplier of mobile heated, refrigerated and transport foodservice units, portable bars and cooking ovens, has added an additional facility and finalized the purchase of the 161,000-square-foot building located at 5599 Highway 31W in Robertson County, Portland, Tenn. The new facility, approximately 30 minutes north of Nashville, is projected to create more than 100 new jobs for residents and transferees to the area.

The move will add to the company's current manufacturing capabilities, located alongside their existing headquarters in Crystal Lake, Ill. "This expansion will help improve the quality and quantity of several Food Warming Equipment product lines, support our existing customer base and promote aspirations for future growth," said Curt Benson, VP of sales and marketing.

Deron Lichte, FWE president and COO, said, "The assistance of several Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce economic development staff was valuable and delivered key components." Jeff Hite, director of business recruitment with the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, and Jerome Terrell, senior project manager of TVA Economic Development, provided assistance in the decision to expand manufacturing to the Portland facility.

"Their recruiting efforts took a holistic approach to our needs by researching who we are, where we are, what we do currently and what future goals needed to be addressed. They went to great effort to accommodate and assist in locating a facility that would meet or surpass our needs," said Lichte, adding that Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam and Nashville Mayor Karl Dean personally met with him during the site selection process.

"FWE scouted many locations in several different states," said Chris Huffman, FWE VP of operations. FWE staff met with state and local government leaders in addition to representatives from the Nashville Area Chamber, the Robertson County Chamber and other organizations. All parties worked closely with FWE, showcasing many of the advantages the state had to offer and providing a direction in the final selection of Middle Tennessee. "These types of meetings showed forward thinking, a strong commitment in key positions and illustrate support for U.S. manufacturing jobs, all key to the decision-making process," said Lichte.

"Portland proudly welcomes FWE to our area. This company, which has been established for more than 50 years, has energy and environmental awareness, and they will provide quality job opportunities for our citizens," said Denise Geminden, economic and community development director with the City of Portland.

"We are pleased to welcome FWE to the Portland and Orlinda communities in Robertson County. Their capital investment and job creation will add another dimension to a diversified manufacturing base along the I-65 corridor," said Margot Fosnes, president and chief economic development officer of the Robertson County Chamber of Commerce.

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