

Packaging company to add 50 jobs, additional facility

Sterling plans expansion, will add second facility



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Spartanburg-based Sterling Contract Packaging Inc. has announced plans to expand and add about 50 jobs.

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A local packaging company announced Thursday it has wrapped up a deal that will create almost 50 jobs in Spartanburg County.

Sterling Contract Packaging Inc. (CPI) at 139 Interstate Park said it has inked a deal with Massachusetts-based Kaz Inc. to provide logistical and packaging services for 110 of the company's products.

In addition to its existing 54,000-square-foot plant, the deal will require Sterling CPI to open a second facility in a 30,000-square-foot space at the Corporate Center, a flexible business park at Business I-85 and Bryant Road.

"This is very exciting for us," said Michael Hastings, president of Sterling CPI. "It's a major addition for us. The deal was big enough that we had to go out and get another building in order to establish two sites."

Kaz produces a variety of products, including humidifiers, heaters, fans, thermometers and insect control devices. Its brands span a number of consumer products, such as Vicks, Braun, Stinger, Honeywell and Protec, which are carried by national retailers that include CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, Home Depot and Lowe's Home Improvement.

"With this addition, it's going to be difficult to walk into a local retailer and not see something we've done," Hastings said.

Kaz announced in September that it planned to close its manufacturing operations in Hudson, N.Y., and Memphis. The company has hired Sterling CPI to provide its supply chain management, product packaging and warehouse services out of Spartanburg.

"This is a great opportunity for us," said Walt Novak, vice president of Sterling CPI. "We're always looking to diversify our customer base and this is a great way to do that."

The new facility, which will be located in a space that was formerly occupied by Progress Lighting, is expected to open in April and will be at full capacity later this year.

Pete Wiseman, owner of the Corporate Center, said he is in the process of retrofitting the building to suit Sterling CPI's needs.

He said the building will have some office space, multiple loading docks, ample production space and easy access to the interstate.

"They are a great bunch to work with," Wiseman said. "We're happy to have them and are looking forward to a long-term relationship. I think they will do very well here. The fact that they chose us is a testament to the flexibility of this center."

Hastings and Novak, who are both transplants to the Upstate from the Northeast, founded Sterling CPI in 1996.

In 2006, they purchased Seven Sons Co., a national producer of licensed rainwear products for the NFL, MLB and NCAA.

The owners said they will be selecting employees for the new facility from a pool of applicants provided by Spartanburg job service The Hiring Authority Inc. Jobseekers are encouraged to submit resumes to that company.

For more information, visit: www.sterlingcpi.com, or www.sevensons.com.