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October 26, 2009

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## **Inland Northwest Economic Developments, Fall 2009**

*Despite a down economy across the nation, the Inland Northwest region continues to see strong economic activity. The following are projects, initiatives and economic developments that are making news in eastern Washington and northern Idaho. This email is distributed by the Inland Northwest Economic Alliance (INEA) on behalf of its regional partners.*

**Lewiston, Idaho** – **ATK Armament Systems** added 150 employees to its Lewiston, Idaho facility, bringing the total number of employees to 1,075. The firm is the largest supplier of commercial ammunition in the United States. The ammunition division does \$2 billion worth of business, manufacturing ammunition for hunting, target and practice shooting, handguns and law enforcement. Its manufacturing plants are located in Independence, Mo.; Anoka, Minn.; and Lewiston, Idaho.

**Clearwater Paper**, manufacturer of paperboard, consumer tissue, and wood products has added five mid-level positions to its Lewiston, Idaho mill.

**Dayton, Wash.** – Washington State Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) recently awarded the **Port of Columbia** an \$800,000 loan and a \$200,000 grant for the purchase of 28 acres of land to be developed into an eco-friendly industrial park, Blue Mountain Station. The CERB funds will also be used to construct the road, water, sewer, and other infrastructure utilities necessary for the park's development, which is designed to attract artisan and organic food processors, and encourage culinary tourism in the area. It is projected to create 52 jobs. Visit [www.commerce.wa.gov](http://www.commerce.wa.gov) to learn more.

**Moscow, Idaho** – Moscow-based **Economic Modeling Specialists (EMS)** ranked 409th on Inc. Magazine's national list of the 5,000 fastest-growing private companies and 26th among software companies. The software firm, which designs web-based data analysis tools, grew 631 percent between 2005 and 2008, earning \$4 million in revenues in 2008 and employing 55 people. Other Inland Northwest companies on Inc. Magazine's list included Sunshine Minting, Coeur d'Alene Pita Pit, and Pure Health Solutions of Northern Idaho and in Eastern Washington, Signature Genomic Laboratories, IT-Lifeline, Challenger Pipe & Steel, Purcell Systems and PCO. To see the full list, visit [www.inc.com/articles/2009/08/introduction.html](http://www.inc.com/articles/2009/08/introduction.html).

**Wallace, Idaho** – **Wallace** has been named one of *America's coolest small towns*, according to Budget Traveler. Wallace was one of only 10 towns named. Wallace's history, dedication to preservation and its industriousness helped the small mining town land on the coveted list. The town's many tourist attractions, including the Hiawatha trail and the Oasis Bordello Museum as well as other distinctive

places to stay, eat and play were lauded. Other towns on the list included Whitefish, Mont., Jacksonville, Ore. and Cayucos, Calif.

**SNS Silver Corp. and Syringa Exploration Inc.** announced a Joint Venture Agreement to reopen SNS Silver's wholly-owned Crescent Silver Mine in Idaho's famed Silver Valley for development, exploration and production. Syringa expects to invest \$8.16 million over the next three years toward continued exploration and development of the Crescent Mine.

**U.S. Silver Corporation** has created 21 new jobs since July 2009 and silver production is up 45 percent from this time last year. Additionally, the rehabilitation of Galena Shaft resumed in July, with anticipated completion in 2010.

**Post Falls, Idaho – Northwest Specialty Hospital** in Post broke ground on a 14,500-square-foot expansion expected to cost as much as \$8 million, according to the Coeur d'Alene Press. The physician-owned hospital is adding 12 new inpatient rooms, a procedure room and three monitored care beds with technology comparable to those in intensive care units. In addition, the hospital is adding underground parking for 20. Read the article at [www.cdapress.com](http://www.cdapress.com).

Whitewater Creek, Inc., of Hayden, Idaho, has received building permits for a \$4 million multifamily affordable housing project at **Tullamore development** in Post Falls, according to the Spokane Journal of Business. Tullamore Commons LP plans to develop 50 units of multifamily housing in what's been envisioned as the first phase of a multiphase development that would include senior housing units in a second phase and more multifamily housing later. The current phase of the Tullamore Commons LP project has been allocated about \$500,000 in low-income housing tax credits from the Idaho Housing & Finance Association. Read the article at [www.spokanejournal.com](http://www.spokanejournal.com).

**Hayden, Idaho – Western States CAT** recently opened a new facility in Hayden. The \$10 million, 55,756 square-foot building is among the largest and most energy efficient projects built in Idaho this year. The new facility supports sales and service for the Highway 95 corridor. For more information, visit <http://westernstatescat.com>.

## **Spotlight on Pullman Smart Grid**

*The Inland Northwest's first smart grid community*

The Inland Northwest's innovative approach to clean energy generally – and smart grid specifically – continue to grab headlines.

A partnership was recently announced between Avista Corp., Itron Inc. and Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories Inc. to invest \$38 million into a smart grid project to create the region's first smart-grid community in Pullman, Wash.

The project would apply proven technology that will allow the electric system to adjust automatically to changes in demand and supply. Technologies would include "self-healing circuits" that give the distribution system the ability to reconfigure itself during a power outage, and Itron's automated utility meter-reading technology, which can provide individuals and business customers with ways to manage their energy use while giving utilities near real-time load tracking.

The Pullman smart grid project is a part of a larger \$178 million five-state smart-grid demonstration project in the Northwest that is competing in a national competition for federal stimulus grants. Project planners will learn this fall whether the Department of Energy will approve the proposed project for stimulus money.

**About the Inland Northwest Economic Alliance (INEA)**

The Inland Northwest Economic Alliance (INEA) is an alliance of 10 regional economic development agencies representing 14 counties in Northern Idaho and Eastern Washington. The collaborative effort is aimed at building economic growth through enhancing the brand recognition of the Inland Northwest and its communities and showcasing its business value. To learn more, visit [www.inlandnorthwestregion.com](http://www.inlandnorthwestregion.com)