



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT

Alison Mallahan
Hill & Knowlton
(509) 744-3350

Inland Northwest Economic Developments, Summer 2010

The following are projects, initiatives and economic developments 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.

Spokane, Wash. – McKinstry, a full-service design, build, operate and maintain (DBOM) firm, recently announced plans to consolidate its two Spokane locations into one at the 103-year-old Great Northern Building in the University District. McKinstry plans to restore the 52,000 square-foot-building with the goal of securing LEED silver certification. The firm plans to add 100 new jobs by summer 2011. www.mckinstry.com.

A number of businesses in the Spokane region are expanding and taking advantage of the **Community Empowerment Zone (CEZ) tax incentives program**. In 2010 alone, Greater Spokane Incorporated has assisted five companies with CEZ applications for nearly \$3 million of capital projects resulting in Sales and Use Tax savings of almost a \$250,000.

- **Western Systems and Fabrication**, a manufacturer of recycling and refuse-related products, has recently completed a half million dollar expansion and hired seven new employees. Family-owned, the firm has been in the refuse industry for over 50 years; fabricating, refurbishing and distributing products for the refuse industry regionally. In addition to custom fabrication of refuse equipment, the company is also expanding into related technical products.
- **Leisure Concepts**, a manufacturer of hot tub accessories in Spokane, has applied for a second round of expansion assistance. It expects to add two new employees and 20,000 square feet of production space. This expansion, along with an expansion in 2006 which also utilized the CEZ incentive, has allowed Leisure Concepts to move all phases of their manufacturing in-house - from molding to powder coating.
- **Lumber Yard Supply**, a building material distributor, has completed its shop expansion, aided by the CEZ program, and will hire four new employees. The company also recently added the manufacturing of interior and exterior doors to their offering.
- **Metal Rollforming Systems (MRS)**, a manufacturer of rollformers, which produce steel roofing and siding, has purchased 4.5 acres and plans to move operations into a new 11,500 sq. ft. building in October. With the move, the company plans to add three new employees.

www.greaterspokane.org.

Potlatch, Idaho – The City of Potlatch has received an Idaho Department of Commerce Gem grant for \$10,000 and a USDA Rural Development Rural Business Enterprise Grant for \$15,000 to fund a **master plan for a business/manufacturing park**. The 60 acre park will be located adjacent to the City of Potlatch. The project has also received cash contributions from the City of Potlatch, Potlatch Corporation, and Avista Corp. <http://clearwater-eda.org>

Spokane Valley, Wash. – **Integra Telecom**, an integrated communications provider for business, currently employs 12 people and plans to double its local workforce in the next nine months. The company also recently opened a second location in the City of Spokane. www.integratelecom.com

Moscow, Idaho – Moscow-based **EcoAnalysts Inc.**, North America's largest bioassessment laboratory, was recently awarded a contract for work with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, according to the Moscow-Pullman Daily News. The environmental analysts will soon be processing samples from many of the nation's coastal regions, including some locations near the recent BP oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. The contract with the EPA will include approximately 1,000 samples from throughout the nation. To see the full article, please contact Alison Mallahan at alison.mallahan@hillandknowlton.com.

Garfield County, Wash. – Construction has started on Phase I of **Puget Sound Energy's Lower Snake River Wind Farm** project. Phase I will include 140 wind turbines in Garfield County, which are expected to be operational in 2012 and will provide enough clean power to serve more than 100,000 homes. www.pse.com

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho – **Hospice of North Idaho** is scheduled to break ground this week on North Idaho's first Hospice House, according to an article in The Spokesman-Review. The project is expected to be complete by next spring. The house will have rooms for 12 terminally ill patients whose loved ones can no longer manage their care at home. Hospice raised \$3.7 million for the project through community donations. Read the full article at <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2010/jul/19/paul-weil/>.

Coeur d'Alene-based manufacturer of keyboards, **Esterline**, recently unveiled its newly expanded production facility, according to the Coeur d'Alene Press. The 54,000-square-foot addition to the keyboard manufacturing company will make room for the company's more than 300 employees, who previously occupied the firm's original 85,000-square-foot plant. Read the full article here - http://cdapress.com/news/business/article_b2fdcf73-8d41-5eda-a9e1-51403448f070.html.

Pullman, Wash. - Clint Cole, co-founder and president of **Digilent, Inc.** of Pullman, was named small manufacturer of the year for Seattle Business Magazine's Washington Manufacturing Awards. Digilent creates field programmable gate array boards, microcontrollers and other devices used to teach students digital circuit design and programming. Its products are used in more than 1,000 universities in 70 countries. Read the article here - <http://www.seattlebusinessmag.com/article/digilent-inc-pullman>.

Hayden, Idaho - Whitewater Creek Inc., of Hayden, Idaho, has received building permits from the City of Post Falls to construct 50 town houses and a community center building in a project valued at an estimated \$3.9 million in the 250-acre Tullamore mixed-use development, city documents show. Read the Journal of Business article here - <http://www.spokanejournal.com/article.php?id=6077>.

Lewiston, Idaho/Clarkston, Wash. – **The Snake River Boat Builders Export Program**, a program serving a group of boat builders in the Lewiston, Idaho/Clarkston, Wash. area, is marketing welded-aluminum

jet boats for international export. The program is expected to play a significant a role in positioning the Lewiston/Clarkston region as the “Jet Boat Capital of the World.” The initiative is already gaining international attention. Editor-in-Chief of Germany’s *Skipper Magazine* visited the region and will feature the program in an upcoming issue. The next phase of the program will include international business training and CE certification for selling into the European Union, coordinated by Janet Bauermeister of the U.S. Commercial Service and Gary White of P’Chelle International. For more information, contact Gary A. White, P’Chelle International, 509-539-3575 or gary@pchelle.com.

SolidWorks in the High Schools is helping area middle and secondary school students to learn more about potential career fields. The collaborative initiative helps connect industry to high school students by means of a common language, SolidWorks software. Teachers are trained on the software and then teach the program to their students. The Solidworks program is now being offered as part of the curriculum in 14 Idaho Schools and 10 Washington Schools. As a result of this program, in the future there will be young, qualified people to fill positions with our local manufacturers. Funding for software and training was made available through collaborative efforts by Northwest Intermountain Manufacturing Association (NIMA), Southeast Washington Economic Development Association (SEWEDA), Tech Prep, Valley Vision, and Lewis-Clark State College. www.lcsc.edu

Region Says Farewell

Bob Tippet Retiring from Helm of Valley Vision

Robert H. “Bob” Tippet of Lewiston, executive director of Valley Vision Inc., has announced his retirement. Valley Vision, a public-private economic development partnership, is the lead economic development agency in the Lewis-Clark Valley, representing the city of Lewiston, ID, city of Clarkston, WA, Nez Perce County, ID and Asotin County, WA., and the ports of Lewiston, Clarkston and Whitman.

Tippet will retire October 1. Tippet’s seven-year tenure with the organization has been highlighted by achievements and progress toward building the economic vitality of the region:

- Recruitment of SkyWest regional air service, with travelers who generate more than \$4.5 million per year in the local economy.
- Business retention and expansion efforts supporting Regence BlueShield of Idaho, which has grown from 450 to more than 700 employees; ATK which has grown from 600 to more than 1,100 employees, and other leading firms.
- Recruitment of Bi-Mart, generating 41 full-time jobs with an annual payroll in excess of \$1.9 million
- Workforce development and training initiatives with Lewis Clark State College, the Northwest Intermountain Manufacturing Association and others to improve local employment preparedness and opportunities in dental hygiene, manufacturing, aluminum welding and other growing occupations regionally
- Strategic planning and coordination in support of the Lewiston Business & Technology Park, the regional tourism development strategy (implemented by the Lewis-Clark Hells Canyon Visitors Bureau), the \$8 million valley-wide upgrade of the regional telecommunications infrastructure by Quest, AT&T and Avista, and other signature projects
- Coordination with port commissions to stimulate growth, job creation and economic activity.

- Coordination of the business and marketing plans for Lewiston's Jack O'Connor Hunting Heritage, and Education Center.

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

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