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## Canadian firm bringing 100 jobs to Heath Packaging-processing plant could be open by February

By MARK SZAKONYI

Advocate Reporter

HEATH -- A new packaging and processing plant in Heath will bring 100 new jobs to the area when it opens, possibly in February, officials say.

The Samuel Manu-Tech plant, at 1455 James Parkway, will process flat-rolled steel, said John Amodeo, the company's vice president and chief financial director.

The Toronto-based company processes and distributes metal and plastic industrial products.

Amodeo said 63 of the facility's 100 employees are from Ohio. He could not say how many of the employees were from Licking County.

Amodeo said the company chose the 160-acre site because of its access to its customer base and the available local work force.

The site of the 151,000-square-foot facility is part of the south campus of Central Ohio Aerospace and Technology Center, at Kaiser Drive and James Parkway.

It is an excellent location because of its railroad line access, road access, and available water and sewer connections, said Rick Platt, executive director of the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority.

"That combination is not easy to find anywhere," he said.

Amodeo said the company also has received much support from the state. To entice the company, the Ohio Department of Development in April approved incentives for building the facility

The Ohio Tax Credit Authority approved a 55 percent, five-year income tax credit to Samuel in exchange for the creation of the new jobs and for the retention of 53 existing full-time, in-state jobs, if it relocated and expanded the facility in Heath.

As a part of the tax credit agreement, the Authority requires the company to maintain operations at the Heath site for at least 10 years.

Samuel would make a fixed-asset investment of at least \$13.9 million, including \$620,000 in land acquisition, \$7.28 million for building acquisition, and \$6 million for the acquisition of machinery and equipment, according to an ODOD press release.

Samuel has facilities located throughout the United States and Canada, with more than 1,600 employees worldwide.

The company, founded in 1855, has common shares listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

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