

Manufacturing growing – at least at EVS

Pflugerville plant will grow; incentives given

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A metal components maker with a plant in Pflugerville is expanding there as part of a nationwide growth plan.

EVS Metal, which manufactures various metals into customized components and parts, is adding 12,000 square feet to its 30,000-square-foot plant on Heatherwilde Boulevard in Pflugerville just north of Austin. EVS Metal, which is based in New Jersey and has a third location in New Hampshire, plans to grow its workforce in Pflugerville from 55 employees to more than 65 employees during the next 16 months.

The expansion will allow EVS to move out of a 4,000-square-foot subleased space, also in Pflugerville, and consolidate its grow-

ing operations into one building. Business for the company's Austin location, whose customer base includes the semiconductor, medical, oil, industrial, entertainment and telecommunications industries, has also been growing, said Bob Evans, general manager of Central Texas operations for EVS Metal.

"We've been extremely fortunate to have experienced an uptick in sales in recent months, and we anticipate feeling positive effects of an economic recovery early next year," Evans said. "When business does pick up, we want to be in a position to tell our existing customers and new customers we're ready for business. We'll have the capacity, and we'll have the manpower."

As manufacturing in Central Texas has waned with the econ-



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EVS General Manager Bob Evans feels fortunate to run one of the relatively few manufacturers in the country able to expand now.

omy, Evans said EVS Metal just picked up a large customer in the past few weeks, and has seen a 10 percent increase in business during the last 60 days.

"We're hearing positive news

from the medical and semiconductor industry," he said.

The company's expansion is bolstered by an incentive agreement

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EVS: Other sites to receive upgrades too

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with the Pflugerville Community Development Corp. Terms of the agreement call for an investment of \$90,000 in 4B funds to assist with the local plant expansion. EVS Metal will also receive \$2,000 per employee it hires, up to 25 employees. New positions will be added in manufacturing and office personnel.

"EVS Metal has been a great business in Pflugerville. They are active with organizations in the community and are going to try and do vocational training or internships at their location for high school students," said Traci Anderson, assistant economic development director at the Pflugerville Community Development Corp. Work on the expan-



Anderson

sion has started and should be finished by December, Evans said. The expansion team includes three Austin-based companies: McIntyre & McIntyre, the project's structural engineer; Austin Collaborative Architecture, the project's architect; and construction company RGD Builders Inc.

The Pflugerville expansion is one part of a three-pronged growth plan. The company is investing more than \$1 million in its three locations.

"It's a counter cyclical time to grow, which means costs of labor and materials are low. That means our dollars go further than they would have a year or two ago," said Scott Berkowitz, president of EVS Metal. "All of our expansion efforts are geared towards positioning ourselves to be as competitive and cutting-edge as possible for the future."