

[Comment on this story.](#)

Grants mean jobs for area - Funds earmarked for Gradall, ethanol plant

By **LEE MORRISON, T-R Business Editor**

Three area projects – including Gradall Industries Inc. at New Philadelphia – received final state approval for funding that will help the region’s economic outlook.

The State Controlling Board Monday approved a total of more than \$14.1 million in Business Development and Roadwork Development Grants statewide that included projects in Tuscarawas, Harrison and Stark counties.

Gradall will receive a \$200,000 Business Development Grant for costs associated with acquiring machinery and equipment.

Gradall, which manufactures telescopic boom excavators for sale in municipal, construction and industrial markets worldwide, is the largest division of The Alamo Group, headquartered in Texas. Gradall’s current facility manufactures hydraulic excavators and parts for its JLG Industries material handler product line. The company would like to reorganize and expand its facility to increase productivity and accommodate new machinery and equipment for a new product line. The \$4.2 million in machinery and equipment to be purchased include a polyurethane conversion paint system, bridge cranes, robotic systems, air units, machining centers and related equipment. Ohio is in competition with Alabama and other states with Alamo facilities for the project, which is expected to create 75 jobs and retain 398 positions within the first three years of the project’s initial operations.

Gradall President Mike Haberman said Monday the state is meeting its commitment to the company, which said it would make capital improvements at the facility to make it more efficient. He said the equipment was ordered immediately after the state initially approved the grant about a month ago. The process will take 18 to 24 months, he said.

“This is a finalization of giving us the money they promised,” Haberman said of the economic assistance package.

The money will help to pay for the first piece of equipment.

“We’ll be working actively on this for at least the next year and a half,” Haberman said. “We appreciate the cooperation of the state, county and local government in this. Without that, we probably would not be able to start the new product line that will go into production in late August. It’s also a reality that none of this would’ve happened if not for the good agreement reached with our union. Our union, and all of our employees, made a very positive statement to Alamo, which allowed us to get to this point.”

An ethanol producing facility proposed for Harrison County received a \$400,000 Roadwork Development Grant through the county Community Improvement Corp. The 276-acre facility will be located off Dickerson Church Rd., south of Cadiz.

The funds will be used toward paving the two-lane road, which is currently gravel. Dickerson Church Rd., formerly a coal haul road, connects Rts. 250 and 9.

"We are pleased that this is another step in the approval process for funding for the entire Harrison Ethanol project," said Chris Copeland, executive director and general counsel of the Harrison CIC, which is helping support the project.

The \$68.7 million project is expected to create about 170 jobs. The state-of-the-art ethanol production facility is expected to employ 107 people on site and will directly contract an additional 60 truck driving jobs. Harrison Ethanol LLC is an Ohio-based company composed of Ohio farmers and business owners. The proposed corn-based biorefinery facility is designed to produce 20 million gallons of fuel-grade ethanol annually.

In Stark County's Jackson Township, Liquid Control Corp. will get a \$100,000 Business Development Grant for costs associated with acquiring machinery and equipment. The company is a leader in dispensing equipment for the paint, automotive and oil change industries. It will add 58,000 square feet to its existing 73,000-square-foot building to expand capabilities for manufacturing, distribution and research and development of precision dispensing equipment. The project is expected to create 32 jobs and retain 83 within the first three years.

Business

The Times-Reporter
629 Wabash Av. NW
New Philadelphia, OH 44663

©2006 The Times-Reporter
Have a question and/or comment about this site?
E-mail the webmaster at: webmaster@timesreporter.com

Main #: 330-364-5577
Classified #: 330-364-8352
Circulation #: 330-364-8387