

City of Newton
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Press Release

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New York manufacturer plans Newton facility

A global manufacturing corporation has announced the selection of Newton City-County Airport as the site for an advanced composite materials manufacturing and development facility, the first such manufacturer in this region.

Park Electrochemical Corp., of Melville, N.Y., currently has facilities in New York, Connecticut, Arizona, California, Singapore, China and France. Kansas was chosen for the company's new plant because of the many general aviation aircraft manufacturers in this region.

"This is a very exciting announcement for Newton," Mayor Willis Heck said. "This company will be a significant benefit to the community and to the economy of Harvey County. We also hope this will be a first step toward bringing other high-tech manufacturing to our area."

The project represents a strong collaborative effort by the City of Newton, Harvey County Economic Development Council, Newton City-County Airport and the State of Kansas.

"South-central Kansas is the most prolific aviation manufacturing region in the world and is becoming a leader in advanced composite materials," said Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius. "It's no surprise that an organization like Park Electrochemical Corp. has chosen Kansas, and I'm confident we'll see similar companies choosing Kansas in the years to come."

Park Electrochemical issued a request for proposals statewide in February, with the help of the Kansas Department of Commerce. Newton was one of seven Kansas cities originally considered for the new plant.

Mickey Fornaro-Dean, executive director of the Harvey County Economic Development Council, said, "The EDC is excited that the Newton City-County Airport was selected for the next manufacturing facility Park Electrochemical builds in North America. Realizing they had other opportunities in our region, we feel very honored to be selected for this site."

Park Electrochemical expects to break ground on the new facility in November and to begin operations by February 2009. The Newton plant will employ approximately 15 people within the first six months of operations and approximately 60 by the end of the second year.

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