



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: *October 13, 2003*

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Ohio Dec/Flexible Foam Plant Expansions Create New Jobs in Pennsylvania and Mississippi

Spencerville, Ohio – Flexible Foam Products, Inc., a member of the plastics division of Ohio Decorative Products (Ohio Dec), an Ohio-based corporation, has announced the company's intent to expand with two (2) new facilities, adding to its national presence in the foam manufacturing industry.

The first expansion project is Flexible Foam's purchase of an 18-acre industrial site in the PEI Power Corporation Industrial Park in Archbald, Pennsylvania. Plans include construction of a 162,000 square foot foam manufacturing facility that will expand Flexible Foam's polyurethane foam capabilities and its national reach in the production carpet pad. Estimated project costs include \$5.6 million for land and building construction with an additional investment of \$8 million in equipment. Upon completion, the project will be funded in part by a recently approved economic development loan approved by Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA). PIDA will fund \$1.75 million at a fixed rate of 3 percent for a period of 15 years.

Construction began in January 2003, with production tentatively scheduled to begin in October 2003. The facility is expected to create approximately 100 new jobs for the community.

"The addition of 100 manufacturing jobs to our local economy is especially welcome news at this time," said Austin Burke, president of the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce. "We look forward to working with Flexible Foam to achieve quality opportunities for the company and the community."

The second Flexible Foam expansion is the company's purchase of the former 289,000 square foot, 21-acre River Oaks Furniture plant in Baldwyn, Mississippi. Flexible Foam is purchasing and refitting the plant to expand its national polyurethane foam production of cushion products for furniture, bedding, automotive, and specialty packaging industries. Operations are scheduled to begin in early 2004, with the initial



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hiring of 35 employees. Long-range plans include adding carpet pad production, which will expand the facility's employment roster to 75 within the next few years.

Total estimated project costs amount to \$5 million for land, building construction, and equipment.

"Both of these projects are excellent opportunities for Ohio Dec, Flexible Foam, and the communities of Archbald, Pennsylvania, and Baldwin, Mississippi," says Lewie Moeller, president and CEO of Ohio Dec Plastics Group. "We are continually seeking these types of company and community partnerships and the chance to improve our abilities in meeting and exceeding the expectations of our customers and the communities that we serve. Both of these plants are good examples of new growth and the achievement of greater economics."

In 2001, Flexible Foam's Elkhart, Indiana, plant received the State of Indiana's "Governor's Award for Excellence in Pollution Prevention" – the state's highest achievement that recognizes a company's efforts to develop and implement safer, healthier, more environmentally-friendly manufacturing processes. The facility was one of seven companies in the state to receive the recognition sponsored by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM).

Flexible Foam Products maintains locations throughout North America in the foam, flooring, automotive, and metals industries. Additional company information is available at www.ohiodec.com and www.flexiblefoam.com

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