

Published January 03, 2008 11:15 pm - A high-tech machine shop is headed for the Moriah Business Park soon.

New manufacturer for Moriah Business Park

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MINEVILLE -- A new business opening in the Moriah Business Park here could bring up to 35 new jobs to the area in five years.

The new manufacturer would utilize the space being vacated by General Composites, which is moving all its operations to the Willsboro Industrial Park.

Essex County Industrial Development Agency Co-Director Jody Olcott said she doesn't want to reveal the name of the new business until the IDA has an official contract with it.

"We don't have a signed lease yet. That's what we're waiting on."

She said General Composites has until Feb. 1 to vacate its space in the Moriah Business Park, so the new manufacturer couldn't move in until after that. It's also possible General Composites will need an extension, but that may not be known until the IDA Board meets Jan. 15.

The new tenant would manufacture components and kits for the aeronautical and medical fields. The adjoining occupant in the Business Park, Pre-Tech Plastics, makes precision parts for the same industries, but Moriah Supervisor Thomas Scozzafava said the two do not compete for business.

"It's a different market than Pre-Tech. They don't compete with Pre-Tech. We made sure of that."

He said General Composites indicated it might stay only if it could get the space now used by Pre-Tech Plastics.

"Pre-Tech has been an excellent tenant. We wouldn't do anything to disturb that," Scozzafava said.

Pre-Tech has been in the Business Park since 1998 and employs about 32 people. General Composites employed 46 people at sites in Moriah and Westport. It began in 1990 as a manufacturer of medical, aerospace and high-performance-sports gear using advanced composite materials.

"We did everything in our power to keep them (General Composites)," Scozzafava said. "They would only stay if they could have the whole building, and we certainly weren't going to ask Pre-Tech to leave. Pre-Tech has been an excellent, reliable employer."

General Composites will move into about 40,000 square feet in the former Tambrands building in Willsboro, where Commonwealth Home Fashions is also located.

The new firm came along at just the right time, Scozzafava said. The company also looked at locating in the Ticonderoga area, including the former Delmar Box Co. building on Shanahan Road and Ticonderoga Commerce Park on Route 74.

The owners of the business bought a house in Hague, Warren County, about 30 miles south of Mineville. They told the IDA they will begin hiring gradually, with three to five people the first year, and by the fifth year of operation, they estimate having a workforce of 25 to 35 employees.

"This will bring new jobs to Moriah and the area," Scozzafava said. "They're going to be moving in soon."

The new Moriah Community Health Center is expected to open in February in its own building the Business Park. Construction on the Health Center started in July 2007.

The facility is in temporary quarters now in the Moriah Community Building.

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