

IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
**QUARTERLY
INDUSTRY REVIEW**

2011 2nd Quarter

Contact Information

Iowa Workforce Development
Employment Statistics Bureau
1000 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319-0209
Tel: 515-281-5754
Fax: 515-281-8195

Email: trends@iowa.gov

www.iowaworkforce.org

*Equal opportunity employer/
program. Auxiliary aids and
services are available upon request
to individuals with disabilities.*

TTY 515-281-4748
1-800-831-1399



Newton Call Center to Add 100 Jobs



*Photo: courtesy of photostock at
freedigitalphotos.com*

Newton—As reported by the *Des Moines Register*—West Des Moines-based Caleris Inc. says it is hiring 100 workers to serve a new client moving its call center operations back to the United States from overseas.

Caleris will hire the workers for its Newton call center. It is located in the former Maytag corporate headquarters vacated when Whirlpool Corp. bought Maytag in 2006.

The call center employs more than 100 workers now, and Caleris plans to increase the work space to accommodate about 200 workers. Company co-founder Rick Grewell said in a statement released Wednesday that the hiring will boost company-wide employment to 400 from the current 300.

Caleris provides technical support, customer care, corporate help desk and product support to clients in consumer electronics manufacturing, insurance and other businesses. The company also has call centers in Jefferson and Manning.

**WESTERN IOWA
MANUFACTURING**

Boyden—As reported by the *Sheldon N'West Iowa Review*—Boyden will lose a downtown business tenant later this month when Sparboe Foods closes its production facility.

The commercial distributor of broken egg products at 916 Main St. will cease production April 20 to consolidate operations into a larger plant in New Hampton in northeast Iowa.

Sparboe has been in Boyden since 2000 and has 13 employees. The company has

Western Iowa Continued on Page 2

**CENTRAL IOWA
MANUFACTURING**

Ames—As reported by the *KCCI.com*—Sigler Companies has laid off 28 employees to adjust to market conditions.

The Ames Tribune reported that the company confirmed Monday it had eliminated 10 part-time and 18-full-time workers.

Sigler President Beth Cross said the layoffs were made last week to adjust the company's work force to market conditions.

The Ames-based Sigler Companies has

Central Iowa Continued on Page 4

**EASTERN IOWA
FINANCE & INSURANCE**

Coralville—As reported by the *Cedar Rapids Corridor Business Journal*—GEICO will hire nearly 30 associates for its sales and customer service departments in Coralville and 100 associates over the course of the year due to the company's continuing national growth.

GEICO, the third-largest private passenger automobile insurer in the United States, employs 350 associates in Coralville. The Coralville GEICO office is at 2213 Second St.

Eastern Iowa Continued on Page 6

WESTERN IOWA**MANUFACTURING**

Continued from Page 1—Boyden—employed as many as 18 workers in the past.

Company general manager Brian Joyer said the reason behind closing is better efficiency.

"In evaluating what we were doing in our offline egg breaking, we felt this strategy would enable us to be more efficient as an egg processor and have more flexibility in the finished product offerings for our customers," he said. "We hope this decision makes us a more efficient egg processor offering more flexibility as we try to meet our customers needs in this challenging marketplace."

Sparboe Foods, a sister company to Sparboe Farms with corporate offices in Litchfield, MN, began telling its employees about the closing on March 21 and indicated its intentions to the city at the same time.

City manager Lori Wolkow said four of the 13 workers are from Boyden.

Hawarden—*As reported by the Sioux City Journal*—Citing a short supply of livestock numbers, Superior Farms closed its lamb slaughter plant in Hawarden.

The move eliminates 49 jobs in the Northwest Iowa city of about 2,400.

It s the latest job cuts at the plant, which Davis, Calif.-based Superior Farm purchased last fall from Iowa Lamb Corp.

In February, Superior eliminated 32 jobs after moving the processing work at Hawarden to another facility in Denver. At the time, the company attributed the consolidation to falling lamb numbers in Siouxland.

"The livestock supply has not rebounded as we hoped," Superior spokeswoman Angela Gentry said. "At the moment, we re not getting enough lambs to even get half of the capacity of the plant."

California-based Superior Farms said it will keep open a six-employee station that buys lambs from area producers. In addition, the company will leave the equipment in the plant, which has the capacity to slaughter up to 240,000 lambs annually.

"We really feel there is a lot of potential for the lamb industry in that area, and we want to be a resource for growers so they can stay in business," Gentry said. "As livestock becomes more available, and the flocks start growing, we will reopen as we are able to."

The 49 workers will receive two weeks of severance pay, as well as assistance in finding new employment, she said.

Lemars—*As reported by the Des Moines Register*—The Iowa Department of Economic Development Board has awarded incentives to IML Containers, Le Mars, for the creation or retention of 29 jobs.

The award includes \$268,895 in tax credits. Le Mars also plans to provide \$148,846 in tax abatement over five years.

Orange City—*As reported by the Des Moines Register*—An Ohio food company is moving some production from a northwest Iowa plant, which will cost 108 workers their jobs.

There will be about 350 workers left at the AdvancePierre plant in Orange City by the end of July. One of its manufacturing lines will be shut down and its production moved to plants in Oklahoma and Ohio.

The company said the employees being permanently laid off will receive severance packages, transition assistance and re-employment services.

AdvancePierre is headquartered in Cincinnati. Its website says its more than 4,000 people turn out food products for schools, clubs, vending machines, convenience stores and other sales outlets.

Sheldon—*As reported by the Des Moines Register*—A northwest Iowa company that. makes custom hydraulic cylinders has announced plans to hire 100 new workers over the next few months.

WESTERN IOWA**MANUFACTURING**

Continued from Page 2—Sheldon—It's a move leaders of the Sheldon-based Rosenboom Machine & Tool say is prompted by increased demand from industries that apparel are rebounding from the recession.

The firm was founded as a tool-and-die manufacturer in 1974. Today it employs 224 workers in Sheldon and 254 others at a second manufacturing facility in Spirit Lake.

Rosenboom Machine & Tool produces cylinders that are used in machines and in vehicles ranging from fire-trucks to crop sprayers. About 60 of the new jobs will go to Spirit Lake, and 40 workers will be added to the Sheldon plant.

Jack Schreurs, Rosenboom's human resources manager, said all the new jobs will be full-time positions.

It's the most significant hiring the company has done in recent years and represents a major turnaround from the worst years of the economic downturn. In 2009, after a slowdown in orders forced the company to make layoffs, its roster dropped to about 300 workers.

"We supply hydraulic cylinders to original equipment manufacturers, so we re very dependent on their health as well, Schreurs said. We supply in a number of markets, and most of those markets were very depressed."

Over the last year, however the company's sales have increased by about 45 percent.

Schreurs said part of that growth comes from picking up new types of business, including orders from a German company called HAWE that needed hydraulic cylinders to operate large solar panels in the desert.

The company hopes to fill the positions by the end of the year.

The new jobs will include production supervisors, mill and lathe operators, robotic welder operators, maintenance workers and quality assurance positions.

Schreurs said his company's growth should provide a boost to the local economies. "It's good for housing, good for our retailers, and these are jobs with good growth potential," he said.

Storm Lake—*As reported by the Storm Lake Times*—With Sara Lee gearing up to expand its plant operations and production capabilities, the City of Storm Lake hopes to provide \$279,000 in tax rebates to recognize the food processor's local investment.

City officials have been working with Sara Lee and the Iowa Department of Economic Development as the company applied for state financial assistance through the High Quality Jobs Program. A business that qualifies for the program is eligible to receive tax incentives should it invest at least \$10 million into its operation and create jobs.

Sara Lee is expected to sink \$11 million into its Storm Lake plant and create 12 new jobs with some management and supervisory. The expansion by Sara Lee would potentially create \$4.7 million in new taxable base for the city.

Schreurs said his company's growth should provide a boost to the local economies. "It's good for housing, good for our retailers, and these are jobs with good growth potential," he said.

Pay for the new jobs will range from \$11 per hour to \$19.50 per hour, depending on an employee's training and work experience.

"These are jobs that can have some very comfortable weekly income, and that means that everybody from the car dealers to the grocery store to the Realtors will see more money in the community - and that should have a very positive impact," he said.

CENTRAL IOWA

AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING

Osceola—As reported by the *Creston News Advertiser*—A ground breaking ceremony was held for Osceola's new turkey hatchery, Valley of the Moon Commercial Poults, Inc. When complete, the hatchery will be the world's largest, hatching approximately 50 million turkeys a year.

A poult is a young turkey raised for food. The Osceola facility will be producing commercial poults to be sold and placed across the areas of the mid-west as well as other parts of the country.

MANUFACTURING

Continued from Page 1—**Ames**—three business units, including Innova, Sigler, and Signify.

Innova does marketing, public relations and graphic design; Sigler does printing; and Signify does apparel and merchandise. The company has locations in central Iowa and serves both U.S. and international clients.

Ames—As reported by the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*—A Spanish company that manufactures animal vaccines plans to build its first U.S. plant in Ames.

David Nogareda, president of Amer, Spain-based Laboratorias Hipra, said Ames is a great location because of its proximity to Iowa State University. The facility would be at the university's research park.

Construction is expected to begin by year's end. The plant would be in operation by 2014 and employ 60 workers.

The project still needs approval from state and local authorities.

Mason City—As reported by the *Globe-Gazette*—Cargill Kitchen Solutions is planning a \$15.5 million expansion that includes creation of 20 jobs.

Cargill, formerly Sunny Fresh Foods, is asking the City Council to consider tax incentives as part of a development agreement with the city.

City Administrator Brent Trout said the North Iowa Corridor Economic Development Corp. has been working with Cargill on the project, which would include a \$3 million, 35,000-square-foot building expansion and installation of a new egg processing line at the company's plant at 1750 S. Benjamin Ave.

Beyond that, the company intends to invest \$12.5 million which includes building improvements, machinery and equipment.

Newton—As reported by *KCCL.com*—A Minnesota-based manufacturer of folding cartons has purchased the building that formerly housed a Maytag Corp. regional distribution center in Newton.

Chris Pendroy and Kermit Marsh, both of Terrus Real Estate Group LLC, represented Los Angeles-based Industrial Realty Group LLC in its sale of the 175,000-square-foot industrial building at 1204 N. 15th Ave. E.

"We have purchased a building, and we are planning on doing some modifications," said Marc Anderson, president of Walter G. Anderson Inc. in Medina. He said his company intends to start by hiring 30 people and begin operating in the space this fall.

The \$2.78 million transaction closed following Jacobson Cos.' recent move to a larger space in the adjacent Newton Business Center, which Pendroy said was formerly known as Maytag Plant II. Terrus will represent Industrial Realty Group in leasing the remaining 1.1 million square feet of that property's manufacturing and warehouse space, he said.

Anderson said his company, which uses paperboard to manufacture packages for consumer food products, employs 225 people in its Medina facility west of Minneapolis.

Maytag, which in 2006 was purchased by Whirlpool Corp., shut down its Newton operations in late 2007. Newton is located 30 miles east of Des Moines near Interstate 80.

"We have found very similar people, work ethic," Anderson said. "We like it, and hopefully we can be an added value to the community."

The sale closed on Feb. 23.

CENTRAL IOWA

MANUFACTURING

Forest City—As reported by the *Mason City Globe-Gazette*—The Iowa Power Fund Board approved a \$1.5 million award on Wednesday to Growth Design Energy, Mt. Valley LLC to build a biodiesel refinery near Forest City.

The refinery will produce three million gallons a year of biodiesel fuel using second-generation refining technologies with non-food waste oils as feedstocks.

Growth Design Corp. announced in 2009 that it would be building the biodiesel plant in the Forest City area.

According to Globe Gazette files the plant will employ about 14 people initially with more later.

The company had planned on receiving the state award as part of a financing package including local investors, bank loans and funding through the United States Department of Agriculture and rural economic development programs.

Total cost of the facility was projected at \$9.3 million.

The plant is projected to produce biodiesel using a process which converts various fats often considered waste, including animal fat, used oil from restaurants and others.

Newton—As reported by the *Des Moines Register*—Springboard Engineering, a Newton company founded by former Maytag engineers and designers, has been acquired by Underwriters Laboratories, a global safety company based in Northbrook, Ill.

The deal will close at the end of May. Both companies are privately held and wouldn't disclose the terms of the deal.

Springboard was founded after Whirlpool acquired Maytag and

decided to close the Newton operation, including a 65-employee design center. Jordan Bruntz, director of engineering for Maytag, headed the effort to start the business in 2007. Springboard now has about 50 employees, almost all of them former Maytag employees.

Bruntz, who will remain president, said Springboard will stay in Newton.

"A lot of these people have gone through a recent acquisition that wasn't so pleasant, and this is completely different, Bruntz said. The reason that UL came to Newton is because they love the people and they love the work that they're doing and the last thing they want to do is disrupt that."

Springboard tests and helps design new products for companies. Its expertise in appliances was attractive to UL, Bruntz said. UL employs more than 6,800 people in more than 96 countries.

"This acquisition will enable UL to strengthen and expand our capabilities to serve key customers in the HVAC, appliances and components segments and give us a comprehensive suite of services to support global manufacturers," said Sajeew Jesudas, president of UL Verification Services, in a statement.

WHOLESALE TRADE

Norwalk—As reported by the *Des Moines Register*—The Iowa Department of Economic Development Board has awarded incentives to Capital City Fruit, Norwalk, for the creation or retention of 123 jobs.

The award includes a \$107,500 loan, \$107,500 forgivable loan, \$25,000 in job training assistance, and \$1,000,000 in tax credits. Norwalk also plans to provide \$3 million in property tax abatement over 10 years, \$150,000 for road and storm sewer improvements and \$396,000 for land purchase. Leaders also seek a \$1.5 million transportation grant.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Des Moines—As reported by the *Iowa City Press-Citizen*—The Iowa Department of Natural Resources will lay off more than 100 workers in July, director Roger Lande announced.

The only full-time positions to be eliminated are in the Geological and Water Survey Bureau, which will lose three employees, and 13 University of Iowa employees under contract with the agency. In addition, 116 part-time positions in parks, law enforcement and other divisions will be trimmed. The cuts are effective in July. The department has more than 1,100 employees, according to its website.

EASTERN IOWA**MANUFACTURING**

Bettendorf—*As reported by the Quad-City Times*—Alcoa Davenport Works announced plans to hire 80 additional workers in the coming months to meet the increasing demand for its aluminum products.

John Riches, company spokesman, said the Riverdale plant is recruiting new production and maintenance workers. The hiring will occur from now through August.

He said the additional Alcoa employees are needed to fill some jobs lost through attrition as well as new positions. "It's not any one market segment that's improving, but our business has been increasing."

After a significant downturn during the recession, Alcoa brought back all the workers from layoffs in September 2010. It then hired an additional 100 employees late last year.

"We've had additions each month," Riches said, adding that the latest hires will put Alcoa back to its pre-recession employment of 2,200 employees.

Cedar Rapids—*As reported by the Des Moines Register*—The Iowa Department of Economic Development Board has awarded incentives to American Profol, Cedar Rapids, for the creation or retention of 25 jobs.

The award includes a \$250,000 forgivable loan. Alliant Energy also plans to provide a \$200,000 energy conservation rebate.

Clinton—*As reported by the Quad-City Times*—Thomas & Betts Corp.'s Clinton, Iowa, plant will close with gradual layoffs expected to begin soon, company officials said today.

The Memphis, Tenn.-based electrical components company said earlier this month that it was considering discontinuation of production at its facility in Clinton, putting 135 people out of work.

But a final decision was not made under after consultation with the Plastics Workers Union, AFL-CIO, to determine whether the union could offer an alternative plan that could possibly keep the plant open. The plant at 1001 S. 2nd St. employs 135 people, most of whom are union members, said Tricia Bergeron, vice president investor and corporate relations.

"A decision has been made to close the Clinton facility and move production to other Thomas & Betts' facilities. Employees were notified yesterday," she said.

"Negotiations were productive. But at the end of the day, they did not come up with a satisfactory alternative and we were unable to agree with all the objectives."

The company will consolidate production of nonmetallic electrical outlet boxes, which Clinton produces, at its plants in Portland and Athens, Tenn.

She said the plant manufactures blue plastic electrical boxes used in construction of residential properties. But demand for that product has dropped more than 40 percent since 2008, she said.

"This is a very difficult decision because it affects the lives of our workers, their families and the community," Tim Coates, vice president of operations, Thomas & Betts Electrical Division, said in a news release in early April.

Bergeron said none of the workers will be offered the option of transferring. Layoffs are expected to be completed in July.

In accordance with company policy, all full-time employees would be eligible to receive separation pay and certain benefits. Separation pay is based on years of service. Affected employees also will be eligible to receive unemployment compensation.

Thomas & Betts became the owner of the Clinton operation in 2007 when it acquired the Lamson & Sessions Co. The facility is about 150,000 square feet.

Thomas & Betts Corp. designs, manufactures and markets components used to manage the connection, distribution, transmission and reliability of electrical power in industrial, construction and utility industries. The company had about 8,750 employees in 2010 at about 40 facilities, Bergeron said.

EASTERN IOWA

MANUFACTURING

Dubuque—As reported by the *Telegraph-Herald*—Flexsteel Industries announced plans to build a \$12 million, four-story corporate headquarters in the Port of Dubuque.

Tim Hall, vice president of finance, said the company evaluated Dubuque sites for more than two years and never considered moving its headquarters to another city,

"If that was a consideration, it didn't last long," Hall said. "Dubuque is who we are and this is where we want to be. Everything we need is right here."

The Dubuque City Council will be asked to approve an incentives package. The Iowa Department of Economic Development also must approve state incentives before the deal becomes official. Flexsteel has agreed to create 10 jobs within three years.

If all the pieces fall into place, Hall said construction at the corner of Fifth and Bell streets will begin on July 1.

About 100 headquarters employees will move into the facility in the spring of 2012. The manufacturing and warehousing functions will remain at 3400 Jackson St., which the company has called home since 1936 when it left Minneapolis.

Dubuque—As reported by the *Des Moines Register*—The Iowa Department of Economic Development Board has awarded incentives to Flexsteel Industries, Dubuque, for the creation or retention of 10 jobs.

The award includes a \$40,000 forgivable loan and an estimated \$1.4 million in tax credits. Dubuque also plans to provide \$400,000 toward the purchase of land and a \$4.3 million tax increment finance rebate over 15 years.

Dyersville—As reported by the *Telegraph-Herald*—A Dyersville employer has received funding from the Iowa Department of Economic Development to create 100 jobs over the next three years. FarmTek will receive \$630,000 in direct financial assistance.

Half of the award will be in the form of a forgivable loan and the other half will be a 0 percent interest loan, according to Dyersville Development Director Jacque Rahe.

FarmTek plans include constructing a new manufacturing facility and technology center in Dyersville to meet demand for its products, according to the Iowa Department of Economic Development.

The Dyersville City Council approved the application to seek funds May 16. The grant was awarded by the Iowa Economic Development Board on May 19.

Eldridge—As reported by the *Quad-City Times*—Chicago-based R.R. Donnelly & Sons announced it is closing its Eldridge, Iowa, plant, displacing 279 workers, said Ted Harms, state rapid response coordinator for Iowa Workforce Development.

Harms said the printing company announced it will close the Eldridge plant July 31.

The suddenness of the announcement took Eldridge Mayor Marty O'Boyle and Quad-Cities Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive Officer Tara Barney by surprise.

The plant is the largest employer in Eldridge.

R.R. Donnelly acquired the former Von Hoffmann in January 2007. It was part of a \$412.5 million deal with Visant Corp. The facility originally was Bawden Printing.

Iowa City—As reported by the *Iowa City Press-Citizen*—A Maryland-based ductile iron castings foundry will bring 175 jobs to Iowa City by 2013, officials announced.

At the Iowa Wind Energy Association annual conference in Des Moines, Gov. Terry Branstad announced that Nadicom - North American Ductile Iron Company - just outside Washington, D.C., plans to locate its first North American foundry in Iowa City.

According to a news release from the Iowa City Area Development Group, the city of Iowa City and state of Iowa have been in discussions with Nadicom since last August.

Nadicom CEO Prasad Karunakaran said he chose between two states before deciding where to locate his factory. Ultimately, the "chemistry" of the Iowa City location won him over, he said.

EASTERN IOWA

MANUFACTURING

Continued from Page 7—Dyersville—"The work force was good," he said. "The simple fact that it was set up pretty well. I made the decision to set up in Iowa."

Plans call for the foundry to be built at the city's Wind Energy Supply Chain Campus near the Scott Six business park, which is near the intersection of Highway 6 and Scott Boulevard on the southeast corner of Iowa City campus.

Karunakarn said the foundry would employ non-union machinists, engineers, administrative staff and other related employees.

Nadicom CFO Todd Henkle said the average pay would be at least \$18 an hour, including benefits, which he said exceeds the average private sector wage.

Osage—*As reported by the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier*—Gov. Terry Branstad touted the building of a biosciences plant in northern Iowa as evidence that his administration's efforts to bring jobs to the state are working.

Officials from Valent BioSciences, a Japanese corporation that already operates in Illinois, announced it will build a \$150 million fermentation facility in Osage for the production of bio-rational agricultural, horticultural, public health and forestry products.

The plant is expected to bring an additional 89 jobs to Osage when it is completed.

"This is a significant investment in Iowa. I know there are many international locations that were considered," Branstad said. "Certainly, biosciences is a logical place for Iowa to grow."

The governor used the announcement to stump for commercial tax cuts, a priority of his that he has been pushing during the state budget process.

Asked if tax rates were cited as a reason by the company, Branstad said he didn't think they were, but high tax rates were one of the themes he brought back from the jobs tour that he and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds undertook this year.

Higher taxes, he said, "are clearly impediments" to business growth. The state is providing \$500,000 to help upgrade the Osage waste water system through the Department of Economic Development.

Osage—*As reported by the Osage Mitchell County Press-News*—Members of the Osage City Council approved a tax rebate of \$250,000 over 10 years for a major expansion at A to Z Drying of Osage.

The local industry plans to add a 36,000 square-foot warehouse as well as a 16,000 square-foot packaging facility at its location on the southeast edge of town. Twelve new employees are expected to be hired in the packaging facility.

A to Z Drying, established in 1973, dries and packages environmentally safe agricultural base products. The products are shipped within the United States and throughout the world.

Waverly—*As reported by the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier*—GMT Corp. in Waverly is eyeing an expansion that would add 34 jobs and a 46,000-square-foot building.

The Iowa Economic Development Board granted \$250,000 in assistance to the company.

The family-owned engineering and iron machining company plans to expand on 15 acres in the Waverly Business Park. That includes buying up to \$25 million in machinery and equipment and \$5 million for the new building.

GMT must repay half of the state loan in 5 years. The company won't have to repay the remaining \$125,000 if it fulfills project requirements.

The company has more than 300 employees and specializes in iron castings, steel fabrication and assemblies. Its customers include John Deere, Caterpillar, FMC, Terex and Lockheed Martin.

West Union—*As reported by the Oelwein Daily Register*—Art's Way Manufacturing Co. said that it will move its top and bottom drive auger production from Salem, S.D., to its newest facility in West Union, Ia.

The move will create about 50 jobs at the 200,000-square-foot facility, which Art's Way bought last year. Art's Way Chairman J. Ward McDonnell said the move "will help us consolidate our material movement and allow us to ramp up staffing with the skilled work force in the West Union area."

Art's Way is based in Armstrong, Ia., and is a maker of farm equipment and machinery.

EASTERN IOWA

INFORMATION

Hiawatha—*As reported by the Gazette*—Area job seekers may want to register their names with Web hosting provider and domain registrar GoDaddy.com.

The company, which is the largest of its kind in the world, already hired 300 people when it opened a customer service office here last July. And, by the end of the year, it's looking to add 300 more names to its payroll.

In hopes of filling those positions, the company invited members of the public to fill their bellies at a networking event and cook-out Thursday afternoon at City Hall.

There were plenty of hotdogs and resumes in sight as recruiters spoke with dozens of curious job seekers.

Lisa Sherman, recruiting manager at GoDaddy.com, said the company is looking for applicants with a wide-range of educational backgrounds and experience to fill its available slots – about 95 percent of which are in customer service.

“We’re looking for anyone that has a passion for technology – especially business technology,” she said.

Peregrin Pickering, 31, of Cedar Rapids, thinks he fits that description. The Kirkwood Community College student said he has spent seven years in retail, and he enjoys working on computers.

“I figured I might as well get paid to do what I like to do,” he said.

MANAGEMENT OF COMPANIES

Coralville—*As reported by the Iowa City Press-Citizen*—Civco Medical Solutions will host a groundbreaking ceremony at 10 a.m. Wednesday (April 13) for its new \$1.1 million office in Coralville.

Company representatives and local and regional officials will attend the ceremony. The company plans to construct its building at the intersection of Jones Boulevard and Highway 6 that will house sales, marketing and engineering services for the company.

CIVCO, headquartered in Kalona, plans to employ more than 50 people at the new location, which is expected to open in August.