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PADNOS officials happy with move to Fremont

FREMONT — After checking out 40 area buildings, PADNOS Iron & Metal Co. finally chose Fremont.

Holland, Mich.-based, PADNOS is a third-generation, family-owned business recycling paper, plastics and metal. It will soon begin operations in the Fremont Industrial Park.

PADNOS was welcomed to Steuben County Tuesday by receiving a special exception and seven-year tax abatement from the Fremont Plan Commission and Fremont Town Council.

Keith Noblett, PADNOS director of facilities and engineering, told the council the Fremont location will be its first venture outside of Michigan. He added Fremont and Indiana have both been most welcoming.

“Growing into Indiana was a natural move for our plastics business,” said Jeff Padnos, PADNOS president. “We service multiple vendors and customers in the area and we also have great partners in this region. Our plastics plant in Michigan has reached full capacity and it made a lot of sense to go somewhere far, but not too far. Indiana is known to be a great place to do business and the initial experience with the local municipality is proving that notion accurate. Everyone is making us feel incredibly welcome and that gives us confidence that we made the right decision.”

To begin operations in the recently purchased 120,000-square foot building that formerly housed Indiana Wire, 803 S. Reed Road, PADNOS was granted a special exception by the plan commission to operate a recycling facility in an industrial-2 zoned area.

In addition, PADNOS was granted a seven-year tax abatement by the council based on a recommendation from the Steuben County Economic Development Corp.

The tax abatement entails the company adding \$715,000 in manufacturing equipment — an extruder, blender and granulator — in personal property and \$480,000 in building improvements toward real property.

PADNOS will renovate the building with electrical upgrades and a fire protection system. The expansion, which should be fully operational by early 2014, will allow the company to operate its plastics division closer to its industrial and commercial customers, reducing freight expenses.

Five or six people will be hired to begin with, Noblett said, with a projected workforce to grow to 22 new jobs by 2015.

Post-industrial plastic waste will be recycled.



“It will be dust free. All materials used are post industrial with defects,” Noblett said.

The company’s main customers will be those in the automotive, medical and customer care industries.

Fremont Town Council President Steve Brown said he went to the PADNOS Grand Rapids, Mich., location with Fremont Town Manager Chris Snyder. Brown said he was impressed.

“It was very clean. They’re conscience of dust collection,” Brown said. “The town of Fremont is very excited to welcome PADNOS to the Fremont community and the state of Indiana. They are a family-owned business that prides itself in serving all the recycling needs of its customers, utilizing technology and innovation to continue to find ways to recycle scrap materials, growing their business and benefiting the environment.”

“This is a growing opportunity that will serve us down the road,” Snyder said.

PADNOS was founded in 1905, with 24 locations in Michigan and 600 employees company wide.

Once jobs are available for equipment operators, lab technicians, operation managers, material engineers and sales executives, Noblett said they will be posted on the company’s website, padnos.com. Such positions start at \$11 per hour and up.

Noblett said PADNOS is also huge on alternative energy and sustainability sources. It continues to develop in those areas. The company operates a 150-kilowatt solar panel, making it the largest in Michigan. It also operates its own compressed natural gas fueling station.

“Our purpose is to make the best use of all resources. We recycle sun,” he said.

“In an increasingly competitive environment, Indiana is winning new jobs and investment because we’ve built the best possible climate for business growth,” said Victor Smith, Indiana secretary of commerce. “Whether it’s across the country or around the globe, Indiana’s positive story is being heard. Companies find that our low business costs, growing infrastructure and proximity to a large base of manufacturers make Indiana a state that works.”

Additional performance-based incentives for PADNOS were offered by the Indiana Economic Development Corp. up to \$75,000 in conditional tax credits and up to \$40,000 in training grants based on the company’s job creation plans.