



Multi-National Firm to Create 180 Jobs and build \$89 million food processing facility in Dubuque

Dubuque, IA—Hormel Foods will build an \$89 million, state-of-the-art food processing facility in Dubuque's Industrial Center West, City officials were informed late Tuesday.

The Austin, Minnesota-based company will break ground this summer and plans to have two lines producing packaged foods in 327,000 square feet of new space by the Fall of 2009, according to Mike Blouin, President of Greater Dubuque Development.

This project will bring 180 new jobs to the area. "It will be one of the biggest projects in Iowa this year, which is pretty good news to get in the middle of a blizzard," Blouin said, noting the weather that shut down much of Dubuque Tuesday afternoon.

"Hormel executives liked the site," Blouin said. "They liked the professionalism of the staff and elected officials, both at the state and local levels. And they like the community: our amenities, our school systems and our quality of life."

The new facility will be a wholly-owned subsidiary of Hormel, as the company seeks to expand into the "microtray" packaged foods market, a niche where demand is growing across the country. Raw material will be shipped to Dubuque from other locations. Various recipes will be used to make ready-to-eat products for the grocery shelf.

"This is a big win, not just for Dubuque but for Iowa," commented Rick Dickinson, executive director and chief operating officer of Greater Dubuque Development. "What a way to celebrate Mike Blouin's first anniversary at Greater Dubuque. He hooked this project using his experience and personal relationships, and he worked closely with our elected officials and local utilities to reel it in.

"Mike's success with this project shows that our Board of Directors and investors were far-sighted in their decision to establish a national marketing campaign," Dickinson observed.

Hormel Foods Corporation is a multinational manufacturer and marketer of high-quality, brandname food and meat products for consumers throughout the world. The firm offers a wide variety of products, including hams, bacon, sausages, franks, canned luncheon meats, stews, chilis, hash, meat spreads, shelf stable microwaveable entrees, salsas and frozen processed foods.

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