

Developments

Helping Employers Retain & Create Quality Jobs Rockford, Illinois USA

\$25 Mil UPS Upgrade To Create 200 New Jobs In Time for the Holidays

UPS will expand its Rockford air package hub with a \$25 million upgrade, creating 200 new jobs within the next three years. As part of the expansion, new equipment will increase their sorting capacity by nearly 50 percent. The project began in May and will be completed by November, in time for the holiday shipping season.




Tim Hanson, district air manager of the UPS Air Hub in Rockford, says their service level and great work ethic is why UPS continues to invest in Rockford.

Photo: Mike Graham

Rockford Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey said, **"This further demonstrates that Rockford is a key location for global logistics."**

Both the State of Illinois and the City of Rockford have pledged incentives to assist with the expansion.

Tim Hanson, district air manager of the UPS Air Hub in Rockford, said the Rockford expansion is one of two that were announced. The second will be in Louisville, at the UPS Worldport facility. **"Corporate looked at how well Rockford has performed, with our service level and great work ethic and we were the first expansion announced. I'm very proud of our employees. UPS trusts Rockford,"** he said.

Rockford's UPS Air Hub is one of six regional UPS air hubs and is the firm's second largest with 1,450 employees. It's located at the Chicago/Rockford International Airport (RFD). The company is also opening a new air freight facility in Rockford this summer. 

Ink By The Barrel Lifetouch Publishing Adds Capacity

Thanks to strong business demand, Lifetouch Publishing in Loves Park added a new \$3 million 8-color press, following a \$12 million investment in 2003.

Lifetouch Publishing produces yearbooks for educational institutions nationwide. It's a subsidiary of Lifetouch Inc., the largest employee-owned photography company in the world, with nearly 22,000 employees in North America. The Loves Park facility has 160 employees, jumping to 415 during peak production times.



Lifetouch Publishing added eight employees for its new \$3 million press. At the ribbon cutting for the new press were, L-R, Loves Park Mayor Darryl Lindberg, Lifetouch Plant Manager Doug Billups; Machesney Park Mayor Linda Vaughn; and Winnebago County Chairman Scott Christiansen. Photo: Mike Graham

Kronos = Dollars More Join Trade Mission to Sweden

With hopes of growing their business in Sweden and other European countries as well as creating jobs for the Rockford area, seven companies and seven organizations will go to Sweden on August 21-23, 2006 as part of a trade mission organized by the Rockford Area Economic Development Council.



The trade mission will also seek to interest Swedish companies to invest in the Rockford area. **"Sweden likes to invest in and export to the U.S. the most because they have a five-to-one trade surplus with us,"** explained Janyce Fadden, RAEDC president.

Additional reasons for the trade mission to Sweden include:

- Sweden is ranked third in innovation and technology; they want to export their technology to the U.S.
- Swedish people speak English; technical documents are prepared in English.
- Rockford has a favorable reputation in Sweden, as nearly 12 percent of Rockford citizens have Swedish ancestors.
- There is a history of successful Swedish companies in Rockford.
- This is the fifth trade mission to Sweden; continuity is important in Sweden.

Participating in the trade mission

- Abilities Center
- AMCORE Bank
- Clinkenbeard
- Dixon Automatic Tool
- EigerLab
- Haldex Hydraulics
- Illinois Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
- Ingenium
- Manufacturing Alliance of the Rock River Valley, MARRV
- Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
- RAEDC
- Subsource
- W.A. Whitney
- Winnebago County

Limited Spaces Still Available

For more information on the limited spaces available, please call Derek Sherman, project manager, at 815-975-2292.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). SBA's funding should not be construed as an endorsement of any products, opinions, or services. All SBA-funded projects are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis.

Getting Better All The Time

Congratulations to the following companies for successfully completing the **Continuous Improvement Series** or related classes. This training helps local companies be more competitive in the global marketplace by instilling a company-wide culture of continuous improvement and lean manufacturing principles.

- Arvin Mentor
- Belvedere USA Corp.
- Blackhawk Bank
- Bourn & Koch Machine Tool Co.
- Capron Manufacturing Co.
- Delta Power
- Eclipse Inc.
- First American Plastic Molding Enterprise
- Forest City Gear Co. Inc.
- Franklin Wire & Display
- General Mills
- Lamson Oil Co.
- MARRV
- Mikron Industries
- MTE Hydraulic, Inc.
- Onsite Woodwork Corporation
- Overview
- PGI Mfg., LLC
- Raynor Garage Doors
- Reliable Machine Company
- River City Millwork
- Rock River Valley Blood Center
- Specialty Screw
- TRD Manufacturing
- Ultrasonic Power Corporation
- Vactor Manufacturing
- Woods Equipment Company

These reduced-cost sessions at \$1,305 per person are made possible through a grant received by the RAEDC from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Partners in the collaboration include Illinois Manufacturing Extension Center, Northern Illinois University and Rock Valley College.

For more information or to sign up for the next class, please call the RAEDC at 815.987.8118 or visit www.rockfordil.com/manufacturers/contimp and download a registration form.

815.987.8118, e-mail info@rockfordil.com or visit www.rockfordil.com.
For more information on RAEDC programs or services, please call

The primary role of the Rockford Area Economic Development Council is to market the Rockford, Illinois area. The goal is to help employers retain and create quality jobs. The RAEDC learns what employers need to grow, introduces them to potential resources and facilitates multi-agency coordination.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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ROCKFORD AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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