



Public funds stimulate business expansions

Strongsville tech firm, for one, eyes new HQ near Burke airport

By **JAY MILLER**

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The sluggish economy hasn't brought business expansion to a dead stop. A few companies in Northeast Ohio, with the help of public incentives, are looking to expand.

In the biggest deal recently before area governments, MCPc Inc., a computer technology reseller now based in Strongsville, is negotiating to lease the abandoned Aviation High School at Burke Lakefront Airport in Cleveland for a new HQ.

The company, which has about 250 employees in Strongsville, began looking for a home in the city in 2005. At that time, Cleveland Mayor Jane Campbell hoped to woo MCPc to a tech center in the Flats, but the firm decided to stay put even though it was outgrowing its Drake Road space.

Legislation pending before Cleveland City Council would lease the property to MCPc for 15 years for a total cost of \$18.5 million. However, as much as \$14.3 million of that total would be credited back to MCPc to compensate the company for refurbishing the building.

In addition, the city would provide a 15-year, 68.25% tax credit on the property improvements. MCPc would sign a so-called triple-net lease, which obligates the tenant to pay insurance, maintenance and property taxes on its rented space.

MCPc chief executive Mike Trebilcock did not return three phone calls placed to discuss the legislation and his company's move from Strongsville.

Expansion efforts are in the works at other companies, too.

Cleveland City Council at its July 1 meeting approved a Jackson administration request for an \$800,000 partly forgivable loan to Rockport Construction & Materials Inc. to help the company finance a move to 3092 Rockefeller Ave. in the Flats. The Moreland Hills-based company, operating as Rockport Ready Mix, did concrete work for RTA's Healthline from a temporary site on Chester Avenue, and decided it wanted a permanent Cleveland location, said Tracey Nichols, the city's economic development director.

Meanwhile, Cuyahoga County is helping World Group Properties LLC of Rocky River clean up a site that would allow the company's ContainerPort Group to expand its Garfield Heights location. Earlier this month, county commissioners approved a \$500,000 brownfield loan to help World Group Properties expand an existing 23-acre transfer facility onto a four-acre property at 6145 Warner Road.

ContainerPort Group provides services to the container shipping industry at facilities around the country.

County senior development finance analyst Jonathan Holody said the company has 45 employees in Garfield Heights and has pledged to add 10 jobs over the next five years.

And the county is helping York Delta LLC, parent of Cleveland Industrial Concrete, with a loan not to exceed \$120,000 so that the company can purchase and renovate a property at 13200 York Road in North Royalton. The company, now in Northfield, will bring 55 employees to North Royalton and has committed to adding seven more jobs in the next three years.

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