



20 new jobs expected as company buys former Dow plant in Charleston

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CHARLESTON — A new company plans to add an estimated 20 jobs to the Charleston area.

OX Engineered Products LLC, a division of OX Paperboard, announced this week that it has acquired the assets of the 151,000-square-foot former Dow Chemical Company facility, 1255 N. 5th St.

Nikki Schroeder, vice president of marketing and communications for OX, said the company will start manufacturing products locally by Feb. 1.

"Moving to Charleston is a good fit and location for us," Schroeder said.

The site will now house the production lines which manufacture Styrofoam SIS brand building products, and also support the supply chain for the company's Thermo-Ply Brands of structural building products.

OX plans to add paper converting capacity at the Charleston location to support its 100-percent recycled paper mills in Halltown, W.V., and Constantine, Mich., according to an OX press release.

Mayor John Inyart said the 20 jobs being added is upbeat news for the city of Charleston and its residents to start out in the new year.

"The news is terrific and a positive," Inyart said. "I realize that a few people lost their jobs when Dow closed and hopefully these folks will be able to work that number back up as the years go on."

Angela Griffin, president of the economic development group Coles Together, said she is happy to hear about jobs being added to Charleston because of OX Engineered Products.

"We are thrilled that the former Dow manufacturing plant is going to be kept in productive use," Griffin said. "Twenty jobs is meaningful and they are head-of-household positions that will add value in our economy, and the multiplier effect from this kind of investment and this kind of job creation touches even more lives."

OX Engineered Products has an exclusive licensing agreement, which commenced in August, with the Dow Chemical Company to manufacture, market and sell Styrofoam SIS Brand Structural Insulated Sheathing, a Dow technology.

OX Paperboard is a leader in the manufacturing of recycled paperboard and custom converted mill products, the company's press release stated. OX produces more than 100,000 tons of paperboard each year that is made from 100-percent fiber at its plants in Michigan, West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

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