

Manufacturer to expand in High Point

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HIGH POINT — A south High Point manufacturer of large machinery for the corrugated industry is expanding its business.

Precision Design Machinery has completed the purchase of a 30,000-square-foot building at 1410 Danmar Ave., where it plans to create at least 40 jobs, said company President Chad Butler.

The company ran out of room at its Bethel Drive headquarters to meet growing demand for its products, he said.

Other locations outside the Triad were under consideration for the expansion, and Butler said High Point was picked after last week's unanimous vote by the City Council to authorize up to \$32,000 in cash incentives for the project.

Butler said the building, now occupied by a small furniture operation that is closing down, will undergo some upfitting before it's put into use at some point this summer.

"A lot of the stuff is there for our machinery. It's kind of set up for the kind of work we do," he said. "Our type of business — even though we're in corrugated — goes hand in hand with furniture."

The new jobs would pay average annual wages of \$31,200 and would include machinists, welders and other technical positions, as well as office staff.

The company has developed a type of machine that makes boxes for large furniture items.

"Once this gets up and running, I'm sure there will be a lot of interest in it," Butler said. "Years ago, folks were just wrapping furniture (for shipping) in plastic, but they had a lot of product damaged. They're looking to put it back in cardboard, and larger boxes are hard to come by."

The company has secured a patent for an automated fuel delivery system for which it will develop components at its new location.

The system allows drivers to dispense fuel into their vehicles without getting out by using bluetooth technology through their phone.

Butler said he thinks it will turn out to be a revolutionary invention.

"We took it to a trade show and everybody was amazed," he said. "Once it's up and running, it's unlimited how many hires we may have."