

Hart Co. Industrial Building Authority

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Hart County's Royston LLC Plant to Expand Workforce by 40 New Full-time Positions

HARTWELL -- Hart County Industrial Building Authority announced today that Royston LLC will begin an operations consolidation project resulting in workforce expansion of their Hart County, Georgia operations.

Following a period of review, Royston LLC is announcing its intention to close its facility in Prince Frederick, Maryland and transfer the product lines currently manufactured in that plant to its facility in Royston, Georgia. The closure will take effect over the next five months and is estimated to be completed by May 1, 2014. The Prince Frederick facility currently manufactures a range of refrigerated and heated merchandising products sold to retail customers throughout North America.

"While this was a difficult decision for us, given the impact on our employees at the Prince Frederick facility, we believe this transfer will strengthen our company over the long-term and enable us to invest more in new product development in this product category," said Wes Barker, Executive Vice President of Operations, Royston LLC.

"The new job creation that is projected by the company is a range at this point that could add up to 40 new positions in the Royston facility in 2014, with more job creation possible in subsequent years," said *Doug Cleveland, Chairman of the Hart County Industrial Building Authority*. "The consolidation project that Royston LLC is undertaking means additional job opportunity for Hart County and area residents. These are good quality jobs with a manufacturer that is recognized as a leader in their field, and the jobs are within an easy commute by anyone living in Hart County."

The Hart County Board of Commissioners supported Royston's expansion. Tammy Caudell, regional project manager at the Georgia Department of Economic Development, assisted the project on behalf of the state.

"The Hart County Board of Commissioners is thrilled about the announcement of Royston LLC's expansion in the Royston area of Hart County. Hart County continues to be an attractive location for companies looking to expand their operations. Royston LLC's decision to expand its operations in Hart County is another indication that Hart County has an exceptional business-friendly climate and skilled workforce to attract new investment and job opportunities," said *Hart County BOC Chairman, Bill Myers*.

"Georgia houses a large network of first-class manufacturing companies" said Chris Carr, commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development. "Royston's expansion is not only a testimony to the strength of our manufacturing sector, but it also bolsters the fact that our state is the No.1 place in the nation to do business."

About the Company:

Royston LLC (www.roystonllc.com) is the industry leader in the advanced design, manufacture and installation of first-class store interiors for the convenience, grocery, quick serve restaurant, mass merchandise, food service and specialty retail segments. Royston has evolved from simply being the best-in-class manufacturer of merchandising fixtures to a full-service resource for end-to-end solutions for the retail environment. The Royston, Georgia plant is a large, firmly established enterprise with 200,000 sq. ft. of floor space, over 250 employees and an extensive range of automated equipment in the areas of powder coating, metal fabrication and assembly processes.

Please address any immediate questions to David Storey, Royston LLC President / CEO
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