



Winpak Invests Locally

Winpak Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for its Barrier Shrink Bag Plant

On Tuesday, September 18, Winpak Films Inc., a subsidiary of Winpak Ltd., held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of its new barrier shrink bag plant in Senoia, Georgia. Winpak Ltd. is a public company traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange. Its major shareholder is Wihuri Oy of Helsinki, Finland.



Winpak Ltd. is a manufacturer and distributor of flexible packaging materials in North America. Since 2002, Winpak has invested close to \$20 million in the Senoia facility to add the necessary equipment to produce barrier shrink bags. The recent additional investment established a facility to manufacture a key flexible packaging material for barrier shrink bags. Barrier shrink bags are used in both retail and institutional packaging of cheese, and fresh and processed meat.

Winpak's commitment to barrier shrink bag technology is a multi-phased program. The first phase, just completed, includes a 25,000 square foot plant that houses extrusion, printing and bag making capabilities. Future plans call for additional production capacity. As the business grows, Winpak's investments will provide for an estimated 70 new jobs for its Senoia facility.

Winpak's Chairman, Mr. Antti Aarnio-Wihuri and Mr. Bruce Berry, President and CEO of Winpak Ltd., participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony attended by Winpak Board members, State government and local officials, as well as business leaders. Representing Asahi Kasei Chemical's Suzuka Plant, its general manager, Mr. Osamu Mizukami took part in the opening event. Kevin Byers, President of Winpak Films, Inc. began the ceremony with a welcome statement, saying "this occasion is a direct result of joint efforts and the great contributions made by numerous people, many of whom are in attendance today." Mr. Byers thanked Winpak's Board of Directors for its strategic decision to invest in the new state-of-the-art technology. He praised Asahi's assistance in supporting Winpak's entry into the barrier shrink bag market. Mr. Byers made particular mention of the State and local community leaders. "Your contribution of capital and road construction, as well as creating a business friendly environment, were key factors in Winpak's decision to locate the new plant in Georgia."

Since the project was approved by the Board of Directors in 2006, Winpak has constructed a new building, installed the necessary equipment, and started commercial production of barrier shrink bags. The sales organization, led by James Holland, Product Manager for barrier shrink bags, has made great strides in opening the market for this new technology. With the advanced manufacturing capability now in place, Winpak is anticipating an impressive increase in sales.



Mr. Mizukami of Asahi Kasei congratulated the employees of Winpak for the successful start-up of this project. Ms. Heidi Green, Georgia Department of Economic Development, delivered a message from Governor Sonny Perdue in which he complimented Winpak's commitment in bringing new technology to Georgia. "The addition of the barrier shrink bag business displays Winpak's initiative and drive to continuously provide quality products. Winpak is a shining example of the accomplishment and dedication to customer service that we hope for in all Georgia companies."

Mr. Bill Harrison, President; Mr. Mike Barber, Chairman; and Mr. David Brown, Vice Chairman, all of Coweta County Development Authority, presented Mr. Aarnio-Wihuri with a check for \$500,000 from the State Regional Economic Business Assistance program. In his acceptance speech, Mr. Aarnio-Wihuri thanked the State, the County and the local officials for their support. He further commented that the tens of millions of dollars invested in this facility will have a very positive impact on the community.

Mr. Aarnio-Wihuri was joined by Mr. Mizukami, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Berry, Mr. Byers, Mr. Holland and Mr. John Zheng, Technical Director of Winpak Films, for the official ribbon cutting.

Also in attendance at the event were State Senator Mitch Seabaugh; State Representative Lynn Smith; Mayor Robert Belisle; representatives of Senator Chambliss and Congressman Lynn Westmoreland; Mr. Iikka Suominen, VP and CFO of Wihuri Group; Mr. Murray Johnston, Vice President and CFO; and Ms. Lynn Kemp, Company Secretary, both of Winpak Ltd.

