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PWP expanding thermoforming plants

By Roger Renstrom

PLASTICS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

VERNON, CALIF. (March 24, 1:10 p.m. EDT) -- Food packaging thermoformer **PWP** Industries is investing about \$37 million for expansion projects in Vernon and in Abilene, Texas.

In Vernon, **PWP** is spending \$15 million at a recently acquired, 105,000-square-foot facility to establish new corporate offices and a state-of-the-art innovation, research and development center, said Ira Maroofian, president and chief operating officer. The work should be completed by the end of June.

The new site is about a mile from **PWP's** 180,000-square-foot headquarters plant in Vernon, which will be converted to production.

In Abilene, **PWP** broke ground in January on a 125,000-square-foot addition to its leased, 112,500-square-foot plant there that will increase manufacturing and warehouse space. The company expects to finish that \$22 million project by July.

The expansion will incorporate environmental features such as using sunlight for interior lighting and redeploying production-process heat to heat the plant. Since the Abilene site's 2006 opening, **PWP** has reduced shipping distances to customers by 1,000 miles per shipment, on average, reducing its greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint, Maroofian said.

PWP thermoforms PET and polypropylene packaging for bakery, snack-food, produce and food-service items, among others. It also operates a plant in Mineral Wells, W.Va.

PWP Industries has annualized sales of about \$164 million. Its parent company is HPC Industries LLC of Los Angeles.

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