

Nippon Piston Ring to bring 150 jobs to Bardstown

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Nippon Piston Ring Co. Ltd. said Friday it will locate its newest manufacturing facility, NPR Manufacturing Kentucky LLC, in Bardstown.

The Japan-based company will invest \$48.7 million in the new plant and hire an initial 50 employees, with a total of 150 workers needed within two years of operation.

The Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority gave preliminary approval to Nippon Piston Ring Co. Ltd. for up to \$4 million in tax benefits under the Kentucky Rural Economic Development Act, an incentive program designed to increase employment in the state.

NPR Manufacturing Kentucky is expected to be operational by October 2007. The 200,000-square-foot plant will manufacture steel piston rings for automotive engines.

The company plans to reach a production capacity of 4 million piston rings in 2008 and 18 million in 2010.

The facility will be the company's third U.S. manufacturing operation.