

Expansions mean more jobs for industries

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Major expansions are underway or have been planned for four Nelson County industries so far this year and add up to the addition of as many as 170 jobs to the area.

Tax incentives have been approved to aid more than \$29 million in projects at Heaven Hill Distilleries, Intertec Systems, Orbis Materials Handling, formerly LinPac, and Synergy Tool and Gauge, according to Nelson County Economic Development Agency (NCEDA) president Kim Huston.

Heaven Hill has a \$4.75 million project underway that will add 7,700 square-feet to the Bardstown facility, increase bottling capacity by about 1 million cases a year and create 18 new jobs, said Larry Kass, director of corporate communications for the Bardstown-based distiller.

Intertec has an expansion underway that will add \$2.8 million in new equipment and infrastructure at the Bardstown plant so the company can build instrument and door panels for the Ford F350 and F250 trucks, plant manager Dave Rubin said. The work will lead to the hiring of about 100 additional people, Rubin said. State tax incentives are geared mostly toward training new employees, Rubin said.

The expansions at Orbis and Synergy will add about 80 more jobs and amount to about \$14 million in capital investments.

Synergy, a machining company in Deatsville, is adding an 18,000 square-foot facility and 10 large machines to mill aluminum for armor to be used on the new MRAP family of armored vehicles, according to owner John Mayer. The work will add about 30 new jobs, he said.

“It has certainly been a busy year for us and for our local companies, as new contracts and products have resulted in the need for larger facilities, more equipment and an increase in employees,” Huston said. Last year the state allocated about \$11 million in tax incentives to aid expansions for nine Nelson County companies.

“An expansion of an existing plant can have a greater economic impact locally than a new start up industry because much of the existing utility infrastructure is already in place,” Bardstown Mayor Dick Heaton said. “Local governments and expanding industries can get a higher return on their investment this way which results in new jobs, more capital investment and a boost to the local economy. We are grateful for their reinvestment in Bardstown and Nelson County.”

NCEDA and the Bardstown Industrial Development Corporation work with the state’s Economic Development Cabinet to find available tax incentives to assist companies with their potential expansions, Huston said. Most of the assistance from the state is based on the company adding jobs.

“We know it is very exciting and glamorous when we recruit a new industry to locate in Nelson County, however the excitement is equally as strong when an existing Nelson County industry is so successful and growing that they must add space and employees,” Huston said.

Nelson County has approximately 40 manufacturing operations that employ 4,000 people.