

IEDC News

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RV Products Manufacturer to Expand Two Northern Indiana Manufacturing Operations

ELKHART, Ind. (Aug. 4, 2009) - Governor Mitch Daniels joined executives from Dometic LLC, an international manufacturer of recreational vehicle accessories, to announce the company's plans to expand its manufacturing operations at two north central Indiana plants, creating more than 350 combined jobs by 2012.

The company, which makes accessories ranging from air conditioners to sanitation systems for the RV market, will invest a combined \$10 million to increase production capacity at its Elkhart and LaGrange manufacturing operations. That includes more than \$6.8 million to move its refrigerator manufacturing operations from Sweden to Elkhart, creating 241 new jobs, and \$3 million to move production from a plant in Mexico, which was lost to a fire in April, to Dometic's LaGrange facility, where it will increase manufacturing capacity of retractable RV awnings, creating 116 new jobs.

"We've never had a doubt. RVs will be back. Elkhart will be back, and will resume its place as a major center of economic strength for our state," said Daniels.

The company currently employs 60 associates at its Elkhart operations and plans to begin hiring assembly, welding, maintenance and management associates immediately as the facility is prepared for production launch later in the fall.

"Our growth is a direct result of our product quality and the dedication of our associates. This new RV refrigerator factory in Elkhart allows us to serve over 70 percent of our customers located within a 50-mile radius," said Doug Whyte, president of Dometic.

Dometic, which was originally founded in 1958 as a division of Electrolux, now holds operations in 10 countries and employs more than 4,200 associates. In addition to refrigerators, the company manufactures retractable awnings, climate control systems and sanitation systems for the RV, automobile, heavy truck and marine markets.

"We are pleased that Dometic has selected Elkhart as the site for the relocation of its Swedish production facility. This announcement and the subsequent creation of up to 241 net new jobs to the area could not have come at a better time," said Mayor Dick Moore.

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