

IEDC News

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For immediate release: Aug 12, 2009

Posted by: [IEDC]

Beverage Company to Establish Production Center in Columbus

COLUMBUS, Ind. (August 12, 2009) - Tipton Mills, a specialty beverage company, announced today it will locate a production and research and development center here, adding more than 40 new jobs.

The company, which makes chocolate syrup and gourmet hot chocolate drink mixes, plans to invest \$1.2 million to purchase equipment and renovate a 40,000 square-foot South Mapleton Street building formerly occupied by Big Train, Inc., which ceased operations this spring.

"Indiana has a history of significant investment from celebrated food and beverage makers including Red Gold, Nestle and Clabber Girl, among many others. It is a pleasure to welcome Tipton Mills as Indiana's newest corporate partner," said Mitch Roob, Indiana Secretary of Commerce and chief executive officer of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation.

Tipton Mills is a subsidiary of Buffalo Blends, which is based in Buffalo, N.Y. Founded in 1999, Buffalo Blends specializes in dry ingredient blending, packaging and food storage for major industrial customers. The Columbus facility is the company's first venture outside of its New York headquarters.

"With generous support from the state of Indiana, Columbus Economic Development and the local Chamber of Commerce, our decision to open for business in Indiana was made with relative ease," said Tim Sheehy, president of Buffalo Blends and Tipton Mills. "The state-of-the art technology we acquired at the facility will allow our business to grow by leaps and bounds."

Tipton Mills has already hired 16 of Big Train's former employees and plans to add more than 20 additional associates as production ramps up over the next two years.

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation offered Tipton Mills up to \$130,000 in performance-based tax credits and up to \$17,000 in training grants based on the company's job creation plans. The Columbus Economic Development Board will support property tax

Indiana Economic Development Corporation

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