

IEDC News

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Another Consolidation Results in New Jobs for Elkhart

ELKHART, Ind. (March 1, 2010) - E.K. Blessing, a musical instrument maker, announced today it will expand its manufacturing facility here, creating up to 22 new jobs by 2012.

The brass instrument maker, which was acquired by the Verne Q. Powell Flutes company in October, will invest more than \$2.6 million to relocate its brass instrument production from Germany and Taiwan to Elkhart. E.K. Blessing plans to complete its move to a larger facility, which previously housed Damon Motor Coach, in May.

"With a world of options available, E.K. Blessing chose Indiana as its centralized production location and that speaks volumes for the global attention our state's business climate continues to receive," said Mitch Roob, Secretary of Commerce and chief executive officer of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation.

E.K. Blessing began musical instrument production in Elkhart in 1906 and currently makes trumpets, cornets, flugelhorns, trombones and certain marching brass instruments. The company plans to eventually expand its marching and background brass line to include manufacturing euphoniums, baritones, tubas and French horns. Hiring of additional manufacturing associates will coincide with the new production introduction and implementation plans.

"We are committed to Made in USA and Blessing is now the only musical instrument maker that is producing all its instruments in Elkhart," said Steven Wasser, president of Verne Q. Powell Flutes. "Our management team is comprised of highly successful industry veterans, and our first executive decision was to discontinue all Blessing products which were being imported from Asia. We value the many skilled musical instrument makers in Elkhart and the wonderful support which has been demonstrated by local officials. Elkhart is a community and we want to be a contributing part of this community."

Boston-based Verne Q. Powell Flutes was established in 1927 and specializes in handmade, custom professional flutes, primarily made from silver and gold.

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation offered E.K. Blessing up to \$40,000 in

Indiana Economic Development Corporation

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