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Solar cell equipment manufacturer plans 125 new jobs in Manatee County relocation, expansion

Bradenton, FL – [Mustang Vacuum Systems LLC](#) announced today that it will relocate and expand its manufacturing operation in Manatee County where the company plans to add 125 jobs in the next two years at an annual average wage of more than \$44,000. “The [Economic Development Council](#), Manatee Chamber of Commerce (EDC) was pleased to help Mustang Vacuum Systems find the right location for the company’s expansion,” said Eric Basinger, EDC executive director. “Mustang was located in Sarasota County for four years, and in partnership with Sarasota County, Manatee County government and the State of Florida, we were able to keep this fine company – and its growing number of higher-wage jobs – in the region.”

“We are excited to be relocating and expanding our manufacturing facility in Manatee County,” said Richard Greenwell, president of Mustang Vacuum Systems LLC. “With the EDC’s assistance, we were able to locate a facility and secure a grant from Manatee County. This will reduce some costs of our technology project, which is geared toward lowering the cost and increasing the efficiency of solar cells so that clean, renewable solar energy can be a viable choice for everyone.”

The 50,000-square-foot facility in Sarasota Commerce Center in South Manatee County will allow Mustang to expand its production of thin-film solar photovoltaic cell equipment, Greenwell said. With the goal of reducing solar energy costs, the company has designed and built three types of machines to meet the needs and specifications of solar cell manufacturers. Customers are now looking for larger, higher volume machines, which will provide greater performance and output, he said. Mustang’s expanded production capacity will drive down the cost of solar energy for consumers by incorporating technologies into solar cell production that will reduce costs as well as increase efficiency of the cells, he added.

Mustang Vacuum Systems LLC, an affiliate of [Mustang Dynamometer](#), manufactures vacuum coating and metalizing equipment, including sputtering machines, optical coating units, and batch metalizers. The Mustang Group has been in business over 25 years. Mustang Vacuum Systems currently employs 25 people at its Sarasota County location. The company will be operating in its location in the South Manatee County by the end of 2009, Greenwell said, and plans to increase its staff to 150 by the end of 2011. With assistance from the EDC and consultant Ryan Inc., Mustang successfully applied for state and local grants to facilitate the expansion. The grants will be expended based on the company’s performance in creating the new jobs at the anticipated salaries.

About the EDC

The Economic Development Council, a division of the Manatee Chamber of Commerce, is the sole organization responsible for developing and implementing programs designed to attract new value-added businesses and to assist in the retention and growth of targeted existing businesses in Manatee County.

Information: www.ManateeEDC.com.

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