



BRADENTON | LAKEWOOD RANCH | FLORIDA | USA

June 28, 2010

Contact:

Eric Basinger, Executive Director, Economic Development Council, (941) 748-4842, ext. 128,

ericb@ManateeEDC.com

Robert Smithson, Trinity Design Group, (941) 355-2636, rjstrinity@aol.com

Expanding Manatee County businesses plan nearly 50 new jobs

Bradenton, FL – Trinity Graphics USA and American Finishing Inc., two companies approved for incentive grants by the Manatee County Commission on June 22, plan to add nearly 50 employees in the next five years, according to Eric Basinger, executive director of the [Economic Development Council](#) (EDC), a division of the Manatee Chamber of Commerce.

Trinity Graphics USA, which has been in the news for its relationship with the Hillstrand brothers of the vessel *Time Bandit* from the *Deadliest Catch* television show, recently began producing graphic inserts for Tervis Tumbler Company, the Venice-based firm that makes insulated drinkware. Trinity specializes in creating product labels and other specialty design and printed products.

“We’re printing 5,000 units a day for Tervis, and they want us to ramp up to 8,000 as soon as possible,” said Trinity owner Robert Smithson. “That means we need to buy more equipment and increase staffing. We are planning to have a 24/7 shift system.”

Trinity is expanding into an additional 6,500 square feet of a building that the company already owns and is purchasing additional equipment for an estimated capital investment of nearly \$2 million, Smithson said. The company plans to add 23 new jobs over the next five years. Commissioners approved up to \$1,000 per job over five years for a maximum of \$23,000 in performance-based incentives for the company.

American Finishing Inc., a metal fabricating and powder coating business, is purchasing two vacant buildings totaling 50,000 square feet to increase production capacity and create 25 new jobs over the next five years. The company will occupy one building immediately and lease the other until needed for future expansion. The capital investment for the two buildings and the required renovation is \$1.5 million. Commissioners approved up to \$1,000 per job over five years for a maximum of \$25,000 in performance-based incentives for the company.

“The incentive grants provided by Manatee County Government, which the companies only receive if they hire and retain employees at wages that exceed the county average, were vital in helping these growing businesses expand and hire in our community,” Basinger said.

“Expediting expansions by American Finishing and Trinity Graphics in cooperation with the EDC exemplifies the ‘business friendly’ climate we want to promote in Manatee County,” said Ed Hunzeker, Manatee County administrator. “The Manatee Board of County Commissioners has made retaining and growing good jobs one of its top priorities.”

“The Manatee Economic Development Council was wonderful in helping us with the grant application,” Smithson said. “EDC staff explained all of the details about the county’s incentive program.”

About the EDC

The Economic Development Council, a division of the Manatee Chamber of Commerce, develops and implements programs to attract new high-impact businesses and to assist in the retention and growth of targeted existing businesses in Manatee County. Information: www.ManateeEDC.com.

###