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COUNTY NETS \$400K STATE GRANT FOR BATTERY MAKER
METAULLICS WILL CREATE 47 NEW JOBS, CONSTRUCT NEW FACILITIES

WHEATFIELD—A successful grant application by Niagara County's Economic Development Department will lead to the creation of four dozen new "green" jobs and construction of a new plant in Wheatfield, the chairman of the County Legislature's Economic Development Committee announced Tuesday night.

Metaullics Systems, which rose out of the ashes of the former Carborundum Co., will build a new 93,000-square-foot facility on Cory Road in Wheatfield and create 47 new jobs as it gears up to produce lithium ion batteries for the electric car market, Majority Leader Rick Updegrove, R-Lockport, who chairs the Legislature's Economic Development Committee, told fellow lawmakers. Those efforts will be bolstered by a \$400,000 award from the state government secured by county economic planners.

In turn, the company is expected to spend approximately \$22 million on new plant construction and equipment.

"With the creation of nearly 50 new jobs over the next two years, Metaullics Systems will play a key role as Niagara County recovers from the national economic recession," Updegrove said. "The creation of sustainable, stable jobs has always been a driving force behind this Legislature's economic development strategy."

Updegrove noted that Metaullics Systems, by manufacturing environmentally-benign green technology, had been a prime target for state funding.

"More than a year ago, the Legislature instructed the Niagara County Center for Economic Development to capitalize on increasing demand for 'green' jobs, including new federal and state funding sources for green initiatives," Updegrove said. "This is the first return on that effort."

County economic planners were made aware of the news over the weekend. The Economic Development Department had sought and received permission from the Legislature to seek the state Office of Community Renewal funds just a month ago.

Under terms of the award, the state will provide Metaullics with \$200,000 in OCR grants and an additional \$200,000 in low-interest loans. The funds are in addition to incentive packages created by the Niagara County Industrial Development Agency and the Empire State Development Corp.

"This Legislature, and this Economic Development Department, have made it clear they will aggressively seek financing and any other advantages that can be found for our local businesses to successfully grow and compete," Updegrove said. "This is a significant win for the Center for Economic Development and our partners at the Niagara County Industrial Development Agency. But more importantly, it's a win for Niagara County's workers."

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