



Vacon moves into its North American headquarters in Chambersburg

By **MARCUS RAUHUT** Staff writer

CHAMBERSBURG -- Vacon Inc. has started moving into its new building on Nitterhouse Drive in Chambersburg.

President Thomas Doring said the company began moving into its new factory on Friday, and Monday was the first day for many front-office personnel.

He expects the business to be fully operational in the new building by the end of December.

"Our growth plans exceed the buildings that we're in. We made a commitment to the Chambersburg area that the people who work here are terrific assets of the company," Doring said. "Our intention is to build a location here that provides us with as much growth in the future as we can possibly foresee.

"We have a lot more room to grow in this facility. Our plan is once we begin to have full capacity in this building, we can then begin to add on."

The Chambersburg facility serves as the headquarters for North American operations. Vacon also has locations in Chattanooga,

Milwaukee and Canada and salespeople that sell throughout North America.

In Chambersburg, the company employs more than 60.

"Our intentions are we are going to double this business in the next couple of years," Doring said.

Vacon makes AC drives that can be used to control the speed of motors and to help generate power from renewable sources. For example, their drives control motors that power conveyors, ship propulsion, ski lifts, pumps and fans.

Doring said renewable energy -- particularly wind energy -- is a major emerging market.

Its products are sold in more than 100 countries but Vacon's acquisition of TB Wood's Inc.'s drive business gave the company an established presence in the United States.

Finland-based Vacon Plc acquired the segment on Jan. 1, 2008. Since then, Vacon has been leasing a building on Black Gap Road in Greene Township.

The new building includes a number of green design elements and will be among the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certified buildings in Franklin County.

Vacon is planning a grand opening for its new building sometime in the spring.

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