

Volvo opens expanded Shippensburg plant

By MARCUS RAUHUT Staff writer

SHIPPENSBURG -- The completion of a \$30 million expansion of Volvo Construction Equipment's Shippensburg plant is expected to bring additional jobs to the area.

The county's second-largest manufacturer cut the ribbon to the expansion project on Wednesday

"This is a big deal, and it's a big deal that I hope we can put in context because Volvo had other opportunities. They could have gone other places in this country and Canada and they've chosen to be in Shippensburg," said L. Michael Ross, president of Franklin County Area Development Corp. "I think that's a testament to the employees that are here, the community that we have, and the commonwealth.'

Volvo's Shippensburg plant, which employs about 550 people, manufactures equipment used in road construction.

The facility was expanded to add motor grader work that was consolidated from a plant in Goderich, Ontario. Employees and visitors cheered Wednesday as the first motor grader produced at Shippensburg rolled out of the new building expansion.

The expansion is expected to bring additional jobs to Shippensburg, but a company spokesperson said the exact number depends on market growth.

"This is an exciting time for sure," said Jim Thompson, plant general manager and president of American operations. "Volumes are finally beginning to ramp up from historically low 2009 levels. We're adopting lean principles and learning as fast as we can, but the good thing is we have this new building here.'



Growth at Volvo is also supposed to trickle down to suppliers, Ross said. Hydraulic hose assembly maker DeeTag Ltd. of Ontario is building a facility near Letterkenny that will bring 10 new jobs to the

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Checking it out: Employees and visitors

Opinion/Markell DeLoatch)

"Especially with the tough economic times and outsourcing we hear about, it's nice to see manufacturing expansion right here in the local community," said Southampton Township (Franklin County) Supervisor Sam Cressler. "We believe there's a good work force here."

The factory was originally acquired in April 2007 as part of the road construction unit of Ingersoll-Rand.

The expansion of the plant and its manufacturing capabilities was made possible in part by a \$1 million Opportunity Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

Volvo is pursuing LEED certification for the

building.

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