

BUDGE INDUSTRIES EXPANDING IN KENTUCKY WITH INVESTMENT AND NEW JOBS



Summary: *Budge Industries announced late last week that it will remain in Henderson, Kentucky and expand its operations with a \$1 million investment and the creation of new jobs.*

It was announced on Friday by Budge Industries that the company will double its workforce with an expansion of \$1 million in Henderson, Kentucky, according to Insurance News Net.

"We're adding up to at least 37 new jobs and making a significant investment in the facility, the production lines and in the distribution facility," said James W. Thompson, Budge chief operating officer and chief financial officer.

Right now, there are 25 people employed at the Henderson plant.

The new positions, in production, will have starting salaries of \$11.50 per hour and also come with insurance, paid vacation and paid holidays. Skilled jobs could pay as much as \$18 per hour, according to Rick Nikolich, the vice president of the company's operations in Kentucky.

"Budge is often described as the original car cover company and today we make protective covers for a wide variety of products: cars, trucks, vans, RVs, boats, grills, patio furniture -- just about any asset you would have we can cover," said Thompson.

Thompson said that earlier this year, the company won "significant additional business as a result of our 'Made in USA initiative,' and a couple of new products, Corrode Blok and Thermal Blok. This brought on the immediate need for expansion."

Corrode Blok "is a fabric that helps prevent rust," Thompson explained. "It's a new, breaking technology. A main use of the technology today is for (barbecue) grill covers. Placing this product on the grill cover is going to help prevent rust inside of your grill."

Thompson admitted that the company did look at other cities for their expansion, but said, "We are delighted to remain a part of the Henderson community ... and having a positive impact to the region for years to come."

Preliminary approval from the Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority of \$200,000 in tax incentives is still waiting for final approval.

"I'm pleased to celebrate Budge Industries' expansion and the creation of these new jobs," Gov. Steve Beshear said in a statement. "Through our top-notch workforce and centralized location, Budge Industries has found great success in Kentucky. I want to thank the company for its investment and I look forward to the positive impact on our local families."

"Growth in our community through an existing company is every bit as good and I think better than a new company coming in; thank you for your confidence in our community," Mayor Steve Austin told Thompson and Nikolich.

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