



New venture for Mercersburg company could add as many as 20 jobs

By MARCUS RAUHUT Staff writer

A new division of APX Enclosures in Mercersburg could create about 10 to 20 jobs in the area.

The company announced the launch of APX SignTek, which designs and manufactures internally illuminated traffic signs.

APX SignTek's first sign was installed last week in Virginia Beach, Va.

The signs are designed to help drivers see street names from further away. Similar technology is being adopted in many states with the goal of improving safety by reducing accidents and accommodating elderly and unfamiliar drivers.

"We believe if we make a great product that benefits communities, the possibilities are endless. We can thrive, even in this difficult economy," said APX President Andrew Papoutsis.

The illuminated signs use LED technology, which uses 80 percent less electricity and lasts 10 times as long as regular incandescent lights.

Based on industry comparisons, APX SignTek has the brightest and most visible signs in the

industry. While upfront costs for the illuminated signs are higher than traditional signs, the company said long-term benefits and savings outweigh the cost.

A physical expansion will be needed to accommodate the additional line of work. The company is currently exploring its options for expansion.

In the coming months, APX SignTek also hopes to begin production on another safety product -- solar-powered flashing stop signs.

APX Enclosures was established in 2001 but operated under a different name until 2003.

Its last expansion came in November, when the company acquired an industrial coatings business in St. Thomas to streamline its manufacturing process. Between the two divisions, the company currently employs about 50 people.

APX Enclosures, on Oregon Street in Mercersburg, makes outdoor enclosures for various applications, including military, telecommunications and public utilities.

Its products are used heavily in the traffic industry, which gave the company a segue into the illuminated traffic sign business. APX Enclosures makes enclosures that house the electronics for traffic signs.

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