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Waynesboro's Tyco to hire dozens more as growth exceeds expectations

By MARCUS RAUHUT Staff writer

WAYNESBORO -- Tyco Electronics is hiring more workers at its Waynesboro plant than originally planned.

The initial plan was to hire about 65 people at the facility, which is nearing the end of its building expansion project.

Product Manager Scott Stine said the company has actually brought on 80 to 90 new employees since fall, with plans to hire 30 to 35 more.

"We're still looking for good, skilled machinists," Plant Manager Lance Taylor said.

At its Waynesboro plant, Tyco makes equipment to connect wires to terminals. The products are used largely in the automotive and appliance industries.

The plant is undergoing a 7,000-square-foot expansion as a result of the consolidation of a plant in Mount Sidney, Va.

Tyco broke ground in October and is currently operating in the expanded space. The project is on track to be finished at the end of May, Taylor said.

The new space includes equipment for heat-treating steel and an inventory storage area.

"What that has done is enabled us to remove inventory from our floor space and add equipment," Taylor said.

The inventory area is also built so that it can be used for additional manufacturing space, if needed.

The physical expansion is the first in recent memory at the Waynesboro facility.

In Franklin County, the manufacturing sector was hit harder than any other sector, but Stine said Tyco's global application tooling division has fared well amid the economic downturn.

"The fields

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we're in worldwide have been coming back a bit," he said. "We do serve a global market."

Automotive markets have been strong, and green energy projects are bringing new work.

"We have done well with one customer related to solar power," Taylor said.

The majority of the remaining job vacancies are production positions, most in machining. Tyco currently employs about 280 in Waynesboro.

"We have a good employee base that handled the increase in business we've seen," Stine said. "Our people handled this very well."

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For more information about Tyco jobs, visit <http://www.tycoelectronics.com/aboutus/careers.asp>.



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