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Legacy Furniture in growth mode

Charlotte Business Journal - by [Ken Elkins](#)

A Catawba County furniture maker plans to buy a vacant industrial building and more than double its work force over the next five years.

Legacy Furniture Group Inc. of Conover, a supplier to medical offices, restaurants and hotels, plans to buy the former Ameritex Technologies building. The 139,000-square-foot building is near Catawba Valley Medical Center, off Interstate 40.

The company expects to add 50 employees to its staff of 40.

Legacy Furniture President Clark Norris has told Conover officials the company continues to grow despite the recession and the decline of the N.C. furniture industry.

Nathan Huret, existing industry coordinator at the **Catawba County Economic Development Corp.**, says the company's sales to hospitals and medical offices have given Legacy Furniture a big boost. "That's going to continue to grow as you have baby boomers needing medical services."

The company, founded in 2002, plans to leave a 40,000-square-foot building on Brian Drive in northeast Conover.

Legacy Furniture's expansion could qualify for local incentives. Conover City Council members will discuss those inducements next month, Huret says.

Sennebogen opens parts facility

Sennebogen has launched operations at its North American headquarters in eastern Lincoln County.

The \$5 million facility off Old Plank Road was the site of a ribbon-cutting last week, about a year after the German company announced plans for the operation.

"In challenging economic times such as these, it's exciting to be a part of and celebrate the growth of industry," says Pete Acker, chair of the **Lincoln Economic Development Association**.

The building houses Sennebogen's parts distribution, training and technical-support functions. The unit has 26 employees.

Constantino Lannes, Sennebogen president, says the company also will make some parts for its material-handling equipment at the site.

S.C. Hondros & Associates Inc. of Charlotte designed and built the 48,000-square-foot facility.

Sennebogen is a 56-year-old family company based in Straubing, Germany. It builds machines for moving scrap, logs, coal and other materials. Many of its vehicles are equipped with large, claw-like appendages used to grasp bulk materials.

Cotton Factory wins national award

The Old Cotton Factory in Rock Hill has received a national award for its transformation into a commercial and office facility.

The **National Housing & Rehabilitation Association** presented developer **Barwick & Associates** of Charlotte with a 2009 Timmy Award for commercial or retail projects. **McClure Nicholson Montgomery Architects** of Charlotte also was honored.

Project principals received the award during ceremonies in Boston last week.

Brian Barwick and executives of **Williams & Fudge**, a student-loan collections company, redeveloped one of Rock Hill's oldest cotton mills for the \$10 million project.

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