



PHOTO COURTESY POPPELMANN PLASTICS

Jack Shelton (left), Poppelmann Plastics USA's president, talks with Brian Russell, sales manager, and Patrick Harris, assistant to the president, in front of the company's recently completed warehouse expansion in Claremont.

# Company grows

## \$8 million warehouse doubles size of Poppelmann complex

### CLAREMONT

Poppelmann Plastics USA has doubled the size of its complex in Catawba County's Claremont Industrial Park.

The expansion came with a new \$8 million, 55,000-square-foot warehouse that was completed in May and now is in full operation.

The growth came less than two years after the German manufacturer of horticultural products opened its plant in Claremont and nine years after the company expanded into the U.S. market.

The new warehouse is the second building in a master plan for what will be a multi-operational complex on the company's 27.4-acre site, said Jack Shelton, president of Poppelmann

### AT A GLANCE

**Company:** Poppelmann Plastics USA

**Type:** Subsidiary of Germany-based Poppelmann Holding GmbH & Co. KG

**Local plant:** Opened in mid-2007 in the Claremont Industrial Park

**Makes:** Plastic pots and related products for horticultural uses

**Employs:** 46

**On the Web:** [www.teku.com](http://www.teku.com)

Plastics USA.

"Eventually, we plan for the complex to include production and sales for our other divisions, but we do not

yet have a time line for that," Shelton said.

"In the near future, we will confine our focus to horticultural products."

Although the horticulture business historically does well in recessionary times, Shelton said, the credit crunch is impacting the market because lengthy growing cycles and weather sometimes can be an issue.

Still, he said Poppelmann USA posted record growth in 2008.

"Our technically superior products have been well-received in the marketplace, and the printing of marketing messages directly on the pots has further boosted sales," Shelton said.

"Enthusiastic sales, superior serv-

# PLANT: Part of German company

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ice, high-quality products and fostering partnerships with our customers are the reasons for our good growth. Also, the U.S. operation reflects the values of our family-owned parent company. For example, we won't take an order we cannot fill, and we quote a delivery date to a customer within 48 hours."

The U.S. operation is part of Poppelmann's TEKU division, which has sold to North American commercial greenhouse, nursery and retail markets since 2001.

Injection-molded and thermoformed TEKU pots and containers are produced with a high share of recycled plastics. They weigh up to 50 percent less than 25 years ago, and typically are lighter than the products of other European and U.S. manufacturers, Shelton said.

Poppelmann Plastics USA was founded in 2000 as the first North American subsidiary of Germany-based Poppelmann Holding GmbH & Co. KG, which provided cash financing for construction of the \$12 million Claremont plant. More than 100 East Coast sites were considered before Poppelmann decided on Catawba County.

Founded in 1949, the company worldwide employs more than 1,400 people in four divisions.

**ON THE WEB:**

[www.teku.com](http://www.teku.com)