

September 19, 2008 - Northpointe Industrial Park to Begin Expansion

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By Mitch Fryer

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SOUTH BUFFALO -- A second Armstrong County-owned multi-tenant building will be the next addition to the county's Northpointe Industrial Park.

The \$4.1 million facility, expected to begin construction in the spring, will be about 30,000 square feet and is expected to create 60 jobs and \$20 million in private investment, officials said.

Rep. John Murtha, D-Johnstown, announced this week that the Armstrong County Industrial Development Council has received a \$2 million grant through the U.S. Department of Commerce to build the Northpointe Technology Center II. A year ago, state Sen. Don White, R-Indiana, announced a \$2 million state capital budget grant for the project.

It will join the county's other building, the 30,000 square foot Technology Center I, which is along the main boulevard of the industrial park in view of Route 28. The single-story structure is on a three-acre parcel.

Technology Center I has been at 100 percent occupancy for the past two years, county officials said, providing space to light industrial and office tenants and serving as a small business incubator.

The Technology Center I building is occupied by several firms including Sabeus, DRS, RAPT, Boeing and Lamination Technology.

The need for a second multi-tenant facility to house advanced technology firms spinning off from the Penn State Electro-Optics Center came about when the county was approached by other companies looking for similar space.

"The Penn State Electro-Optics Center has been a catalyst for attracting high-tech companies and good paying jobs to Armstrong County," said Murtha in a written statement. "The construction of a second multi-tenant technology center at Northpointe is further testament to this success and to the high-tech growth of our region."

Technology Center II will be built on a lot yet to be determined in the industrial park along the main boulevard. Burt Hill of Butler is the architect for the project. A contractor has not been hired.

"We think there will continue to be a strong demand for space from technology-related manufacturing companies," said Rich Palilla, executive director of the county's Planning and Development department.

"We continue to see the demand for high-tech businesses needing ready-to-go space at Northpointe," said Commissioner Chairwoman Patty Kirkpatrick.