

Reinvesting in American Manufacturing

> Dixon Quick Coupling will replace its plant in Charlotte, N.C., with a new facility in nearby Gaston County, N.C., that is on track to open during the first quarter of 2013.

"We had outgrown our existing facility in Charlotte," which was part of the acquisition of Perfecting Coupling in 1993, says Dixon President Bob Grace. With the new 100,000-square-foot facility in the Gastonia Technology Park, "we are gaining 40 percent capacity to handle increased demand. We also have room to expand the building as demand requires," says Grace.

The new plant will be home to Dixon Quick Coupling's manufacturing, customer service, warehouse and divisional headquarters, and will bring more than 130 jobs to Gaston County. Grace expects that many of Dixon's employees at the Charlotte plant will move to the new facility. A good number had already been commuting from homes in Gaston and Cleveland counties.

"We had added 20 jobs in Charlotte over the past 18 months," Grace says. "We expect to hire more people to provide more American manufacturing jobs as business increases." Dixon Quick Coupling manufactures pneumatic

Moreover, the county's economic development team put together a very attractive package—including equipping the property with backup power generation to provide guaranteed uninterrupted power.

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and hydraulic fittings used in the oil and natural gas, agricultural, construction and industrial sectors.

When Dixon began to search for a site for the new plant, Gaston County emerged as the clear winner, Grace says. Gaston College, the local community college, is working with Dixon on a variety of training programs, including employee development, lean manufacturing and machine-specific training.

"They put a lot of time and money into this land to attract businesses to provide jobs for Gaston County," says Grace. Dixon will be the fifth business to locate in the Gastonia Technology Park, next to Gaston College.

"From the big strategic point of view, it is our desire to be a U.S. manufacturer, to keep making our products in the United States," says Grace. "That's our vision as we move forward." ■

Dixon's new 100,000-square-foot facility in Gaston County, N.C., set for completion in early 2013, will bring more than 130 jobs to the area.

