CST/berger expects to grow at its new home in WL

By Marci Wright, Journal and Courier

A leading manufacturer of surveying and construction equipment from Illinois has found a new corporate home at Purdue Research Park's Vistech 1 building, and is already predicting employment growth.

CST/berger is leasing 6,500 square feet of space from Research Properties LLC for its 25 corporate staff moving to West Lafayette from Watseka, Ill. The division of Stanley Works will keep its manufacturing facility and customer service center in Watseka, about 60 miles northwest of West Lafayette.

"We are the fastest growing division of Stanley Works," CST/berger vice president David White said Monday during an open house marking the company's relocation. "Now we need some new talent and insight to reach our objectives."

Since the company settled in last month, the corporate office staff has grown from 15 to 25 employees. And the West Lafayette office is expected to grow to 35 personnel and eventually expand the engineering department.

"This now provides so many new opportunities for us," said CST/berger marketing manager Mark Gordon. "The worldwide talent and technology available provides so much potential."

Purdue president Martin Jischke, who joined several local business and community leaders at CST/berger's open house, expressed his appreciation for the research park's newcomer. CST/berger will benefit from Purdue's growing entrepreneurial climate, he said.

"With this partnership, we are seeing new areas of technology," he said. "There is a great future impact on the community."

Through a $3.5 million grant from the Lilly Endowment Interns for Indiana Program, CST/berger will be able to offer $5,000 stipends to students who qualify to work 40-hour weeks over 10 weeks at companies in Indianapolis and at the Purdue Research Park.

That program is administered through Purdue's Discovery Learning Center at Discovery Park, and all Purdue campuses are involved.

"We have incredible students who are leaving Indiana after graduation, and we want them to stay," said Wilhelma Burgess, managing director of Purdue's Discovery Learning Center and the Interns for Indiana Program. "We're working to stimulate economic development and accelerate the company growth."

Aside from expanding the company, White hopes CST/berger can use the new perspective to learn more about the company itself.

"We're already given a great competitive advantage, and we build great brands," said White. "Now there are three legacy brands -- Purdue, CST/berger and Stanley Works -- building something great together."

Ted Hingtst, co-owner of Research Properties LLC, commented on Purdue's strengths being a perfect combination in assisting growing companies such as CST/berger.

"Purdue's Web site even states that they are a team player for Indiana's economy," he said. "You live for the future, you plan for the future, you work for today."

About CST/berger

CST/berger is the world's leading manufacturer of quality surveying, construction equipment and supplies.

With more than 300 employees in five plants worldwide, CST berger offers its customers a diverse range of more than 1,000 products.

The corporate office is now located at Purdue Research Park's Vistech 1 building, while the manufacturing facility remains in Watseka, Ill.

Visit http://www.cstsurvey.com for more information about CST/berger.

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