

Expansions to bring about 50 jobs to DeSoto

GROWTH MODE:
DeSoto-based
DW Distri-
bution Inc. is
expanding its
operation
there, with
plans to hire at
least 40 more
employees.



DW Distribution, Diab Group to add space, people

BY MARGARET ALLEN | STAFF WRITER

Two DeSoto companies between them are spending more than \$11 million on expansions that will add nearly 50 jobs in the small city in southern Dallas County.

Wholesale building materials supplier DW Distribution Inc. is spending \$6 million to add a 180,800-square-foot facility. DW will hire 40 new employees, according to

Layne Ballard, executive director of the DeSoto Economic Development Corp.

Also, Swedish-based Diab Group this spring will begin construction of a \$5.1 million expansion of its North American headquarters in DeSoto.



BALLARD

"About 85% of your primary jobs come from an existing business expanding, and this is a perfect example of that," Ballard said.

Privately held DW Distribution already employs 125 people at a 250,000 square-foot facility at 1200 Centre Park Blvd. It is one of the city's larger employers.

Also one of the largest wholesale distributors in the Southwest, DW Distribution serves Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Louisiana and Arkansas, according to the company.

A subsidiary of Dallas Wholesale Builders Supply Inc., DW Distribution supplies lumberyards with everything from millwork and roofing to vents and metal connectors. The new facility, adjacent to DW Distribution's existing one, will house a door and door frame assembly operation. DW has five other locations in Texas.

Construction on the DW Distribution addition will start in late March. It is set for completion in the fourth quarter of 2006, said Betty Evans, vice president of DW's marketing.

DeSoto's economic development corporation is in talks with the company about incentives it plans to offer, Ballard said.

DW is nearly complete with a 30,000-square-foot addition to expand its distribution capacity, Evans said. That expansion will be completed in mid-February.

"That could lead to additional hires, with the additional capability," Evans said. "Obviously, we'll be able to react to additional economic activity and that, in turn, leads to hiring more people. That is a distinct possibility."

**Dallas Business Journal -
January 31, 2005**

Diab adds equipment

Diab Inc., the fifth-largest employer in the city of 43,000, employs 200 people and has plans to add eight more. It is the city's 10th-largest single taxpayer. Diab's composite material products are used by the transportation sector in trains, trams, buses and trucks. They are used in the wind energy market for blades, housings and spinners on wind turbines. With manufacturing facilities on four continents, the company's products are purchased primarily by original equipment manufacturers, as well as the military.

The \$1.4 million expansion will add about 36,000 square feet to the existing 124,000-square-foot building at 315 Seahawk Drive. In addition, Diab will purchase new equipment valued at \$3.7 million, according to a statement from the company.

In DeSoto, Diab Inc. — the company's only facility in North America — makes high-grade foam insulation for aerospace and marine applications. It also makes Balsa wood blades for the wind-turbine industry.

Diab Inc. hired an additional 20 employees about one year ago. Now space is the issue for the company, Ballard said.

The DeSoto Economic Development Corp. approved a \$175,000 cash grant for Diab, he said.