

Element Materials consolidating in Fairfield

Sue Kieseewetter, Enquirer contributor 3:40 p.m. EST December 9, 2014



(Photo: Provided)

FAIRFIELD – A materials testing company plans to move its Sharonville and Woodlawn operations to its Fairfield location.

Element Materials Technology Inc. will consolidate its two Hamilton County facilities into the Accutek Testing Lab it acquired earlier this year, located at 3701 Port Union Road, in Fairfield.

"We're excited about bringing it under one roof. We think it will give us lots of opportunity to streamline our operations," said Matt Webb, Element's general manager for the Cincinnati region.

The \$2.3 million project includes construction of new mezzanine office space and the conversion of warehouse space into offices and lab space. Money will also be spent on machinery, equipment, furniture and inventory.

"Element is the largest and fastest growing materials testing company in the world. The Cincinnati location has been growing by leaps and bounds the last five or six years," Webb said.

"The facility in Fairfield is about 50 percent undeveloped warehouse space. What we're looking to do is come in and turn that into a pristine lab space."

The Cincinnati area locations focus primarily on aerospace and medical devices testing Weber said. Element does mechanical testing of equipment as well as inspections and scope work.

The move will bring 50 employees from Woodlawn and 20 from Sharonville to join the 41 at Fairfield. Another 10 will join the company by the end of 2015 once the expansion is completed, according to paperwork filed with the city.

Payroll for the combined operations will be \$5.95 million annually. Another \$550,000 annually will be added when the new employees begin work.

About 75 percent of the jobs are skilled technical positions, including salaried engineers.

The city has granted the company a 75 percent tax abatement for six years on its property taxes through a Community Reinvestment Area Agreement. It includes a provision that Element must also pay the Fairfield City Schools \$5,250 per year and Butler Tech \$160 per year during the abatement period.

"We're happy to have them," said Art Pizzano, Fairfield's city manager.

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