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Regional Development Authority Funds Help Bring 240 Jobs to Merrillville

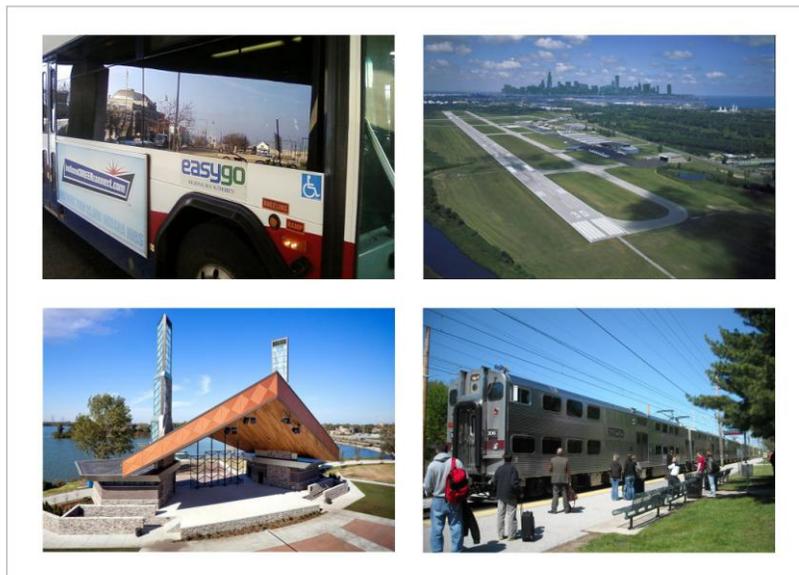
Crown Point (August 23, 2011) – The Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA) provided \$2 million as part of a package of local, regional and state incentives that secured a \$17 million investment by Modern Forge in Northwest Indiana.

Modern Forge, an aerospace, truck and recreational equipment parts manufacturer, announced today that it will expand an existing building in Merrillville to create a 210,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art forging facility. When complete, the 40-acre site will include a 60,000-square-foot forge shop with eight forging production lines, engineering and general offices and a die shop. The Illinois-based company projects that the facility will generate approximately 240 jobs, including engineering, production, operations and training positions, by 2014. Hiring is expected to begin this year.

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC), the Town of Merrillville, the Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) and the RDA all worked in concert to bring Modern Forge to the region. “We provided \$2 million from our Deal Closing Fund to the Town of Merrillville to complete the incentive package and land the project,” explains Bill Hanna, Executive Director of the RDA. “While the RDA’s primary focus remains on long-range investments and infrastructure improvements, this was a perfect opportunity to work together as a region to bring needed jobs and investment to Northwest Indiana right now.”

Earlier this month, the RDA also played a role in bringing more CN operations and jobs to its Kirk Yard in Gary. CN is relocating some of its operations from Illinois to Gary and investing \$163 million to fully redevelop the Kirk Yard rail facility, a move projected to create 251 new jobs by 2015. The RDA secured an approximately \$4 million matching grant for CN which the company will put toward eligible improvements to the Kirk Yard facility. These include the installation of a new waste water treatment facility and a new storm water management system.

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About the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority

Established in 2005 through a bipartisan effort including Governor Mitchell E. Daniels, Congressman Peter J. Visclosky, key state legislators, and local elected officials, the RDA is quasi-governmental development entity entrusted to make public investment decisions within a regional framework for supporting catalytic infrastructure projects and inducing private sector investment. Its mission is to be a catalyst for transforming the economy and quality of life for Northwest Indiana. For more information, visit www.in.gov/rda