

Meadwestvaco helps top brands meet standards

Consumers worldwide purchase billions of manufactured products every day, rarely giving a second thought to how the things are made and the integrity of the materials used. Even so, no responsible corporation would leave quality standards to chance.

Analyses for a variety of products

In this arena, rigorous testing and chemical analysis are critical, and one Mound-based company excels at both. From its analytical chemistry lab at 965 Capstone Drive, the Meadwestvaco (MWV) Safety, Health and Environment laboratory provides analytical support and product safety testing for products that are sold to hundreds of the world's best-known brands in healthcare, beauty and personal care, food and beverage, home and garden and tobacco.

With a staff of seven, the lab offers a wide range of analyses to support risk management and ensure that products meet international standards of quality and environmental responsibility.

"Sustainability and product stewardship are underlying core values to our business operations," said Dan Everett, lab manager. "Complying with strict

regulations related to product safety and environmental protection is considered a non-negotiable."

Certified to ISO-9000 and ISO-17025 standards, as well as third-party certified by the Consumer Products Safety Commission, MWV receives some 6,000 samples per year from its global operations. A typical month could see the lab analyze everything from samples of packaging for a French food product to children's toys to wood scraps that might be diverted from landfills and used as a biofuel.

"We provide everything from heavy metals and VOC (volatile organic compounds) analysis to nutrient testing – all from an analytical chemistry standpoint," said Everett.

Globalization creates challenges

A major challenge for MWV in today's world of global trade is keeping track of standards and regulations.

"We have to be aware of where the product is being manufactured, where it is sold and where its intended use is," Everett said. "It is critical that we understand the markets we serve and the brand owners with whom we partner."



Justin Cerrato performs an extraction procedure in the MWV organics laboratory.

Mound provides ideal facilities

MWV's on-going focus is sustainability. In this role, the lab helps by providing analytical testing of both raw and sourced materials, testing of packaging that supports sustainability, finding ways to minimize the use of raw materials and energy and reducing waste water and air emissions.

Everett believes that locating the lab at Mound five years ago was an important move for the company.

"MDC has been very good at understanding our needs," the lab manager said. "The most important thing for us is the facility. Mound provides us the necessary tools and ideal lab facilities that enable us to do our jobs."

Inside:

- 2 • MDC stretches funding to complete roadway
- 2 • Excelitas expanding space, creating jobs
- 3 • Shared goals: Groups work for community vitality
- 3 • Mound-built 'nuclear battery' still ticking
- 4 • Outstanding leasing opportunity

MDC stretches funding to complete roadway

Credit Mound's efficiency-minded managers with finding a way to build 4,914 feet of roadway when the original project budget was meant to fund only 3,300 feet. The additional footage will allow the Mound Development Corporation to complete Vanguard Boulevard, the main road through the campus of the Mound Advanced Technology Center.

Ground was broken last March on the Vanguard Boulevard extension, a \$4.7 million project that is being funded by the state of Ohio's Jobs Ready Sites Program and MDC. Several cost-saving factors came into play once the work began last spring:

- An existing 96-inch storm water drainage pipe was discovered and will be repurposed to detain water rather than building detention basins.

- The project was broken down into small components to maximize the expertise of specialized contractors.
- The general contractor function is being filled by MDC staff.
- Through value engineering in the scope of work, officials were able to economize and realize savings on the original project budget.

"We've worked hard to make sure the money is being put to good use, but without compromising on quality," said MDC president Michael Grauwelman.

He praised Ohio Department of Development officials for approving the changes to the original project scope.

"ODOD has been flexible and responsive. They've been great to work with," Grauwelman said. "They realize the completed



roadway is a keystone to continued redevelopment."

Once finished, Vanguard Boulevard will connect the site's north entrance from Mound Road to the south entrance, accessible from Dayton-Cincinnati Pike.

The project will also include the construction of water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer lines as well as curbs, gutters, street lights, sidewalks and landscaping.

Excelitas expanding space, creating jobs

Business is booming at Excelitas, and that is driving the high-tech company to make major investments to accommodate its rapid growth.

A developer and producer of energetic safety systems for missiles, Excelitas is working on the second phase of a \$3.8 million improvement program to increase space for product development, engineering and research activities and enhance security. Part of the company's growth plan includes expanding employment from 85 to 115 over the next three years.

View of defense market pipeline

"Our strong customer relationships give us a good view of what's coming down the pipeline in defense markets," said Excelitas spokesman Andy Stelmack. "And what we're seeing are strong opportunities for continued growth."

Spring 2012 saw the completion of Phase I and \$605,000 worth of interior and exterior building improvements made with the help of a \$200,000 grant from Montgomery County's ED/GE Program.

The \$625,000 Phase II renovation is underway. Slated for completion in spring 2013, it will involve security enhancements and reconfigured office space to accommodate additional staff. This work is also being supported with a \$300,000 ED/GE grant as well as \$25,000 in City funding. MDC is managing the construction project.

Roadway improvements... and more

Site and infrastructure improvements are included in the project, as well. In 2010, MDC secured State of Ohio funds totaling \$4.7 million to complete roadways, a parking lot, storm sewers and street lighting. These improvements will enhance access to the Excelitas' facility at 1100 Vanguard Blvd. and provide an updated approach to the building, reflecting the company's high-tech profile.

"We're also looking forward to the opportunities for new development that will be opened up when we finish the construction of Mound's major collector street – Vanguard Boulevard – as part

of this project," said MDC president Michael Grauwelman.

The Excelitas Miamisburg facility was one of the first businesses formed by former Mound workers when the site was closed as a defense facility in 1993.

"Excelitas has an outstanding reputation in the industry for reliability and innovative solutions," said Grauwelman. "Their commitment to quality has paid excellent dividends for the company, for the Mound Advanced Technology Center and for our entire community."



Shared goals: Groups work for community vitality

During Mound's days as a defense laboratory, there might as well have been a mountain standing between the top-secret facility and downtown Miamisburg. With national security at stake, it could be no other way.

Nowadays, the barriers have come down, and groups representing the two areas are finding that the quest for success is a shared goal that can bring them together.

A powerful team

The work of keeping Miamisburg's historic downtown vital and interesting is shared by a team of three organizations: the city of Miamisburg and Downtown Miamisburg Inc. are responsible for attracting businesses to fill downtown spaces as well as completing capital improvements; meanwhile, the Miamisburg Merchants' Association, a volunteer group of 78 business owners and neighbors, focuses on creating an environment that's interesting, lively and attractive.

"Our mission is to promote and preserve the Miamisburg Historic Downtown as a viable and vibrant destination for Miami Valley residents and visitors," said Bonnie Nolan, president of the Miamisburg Merchants Association and the owner of

The Wine Loft, a downtown business.

Grants to new businesses

The group sponsors large community events such as Monte Carlo night in March and the Tour d Burg bike race in June. Last summer, it arranged for three pop-up art galleries, giving area artists a chance to display their work and art enthusiasts a reason to visit downtown Miamisburg.

With the money raised through events such as these, the association provides grants to new businesses and promotional opportunities for members.

The Merchants' Association has also taken steps to make the area more welcoming by installing attractive bike racks and maintaining the huge planters of colorful flowers that brighten up Main Street.

Support for business recruitment

For their part, Mound officials recognize the importance of thriving commercial areas such as downtown Miamisburg to Mound's future as a business and technology park.

"When we're working with a Mound prospect, we always try to show them the historic downtown so they can see that



other businesses are investing here and there are plenty of options for a business lunch or an employee after-hours event," said Mound Development Corporation president Michael Grauwelman, who also serves on the Downtown Miamisburg Inc. Board of Directors. "We don't take any of these amenities for granted. In a business owner's mind, they're important enough to make or break a deal."

Mound-built 'nuclear battery' still ticking

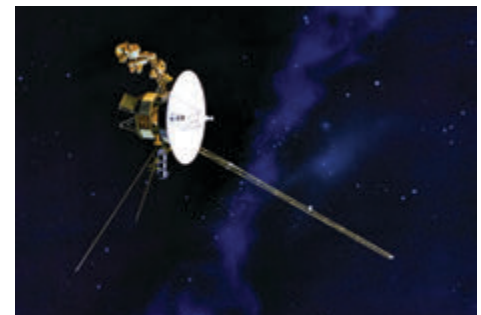
Earlier this fall, NASA's Voyager 1 and 2 spacecraft marked 35 years in orbit, running on Mound-built radioisotope thermoelectric generators – RTGs – that have powered their missions to Jupiter and Saturn. Voyager 2 made it to Uranus and Neptune, the first craft ever to have done so. Next up: breaking out beyond the solar system to where no craft has gone before.

According to a Sept. 5, 2012, *Dayton Daily News* story about the journey, the two spacecraft made surprising discoveries such as another Jupiter moon

and "hints of an ocean beneath the icy surface of Europa." They also sent back impressive photography of Jupiter's red spot and Saturn's rings.

The invention of RTGs by Mound scientists in the 1960s was a technological breakthrough, as it allowed NASA to plan deep-space missions. The RTGs have 68 kilobytes of computer memory and are using eight-track recording capabilities – considered state-of-the-art technology at the time of the 1977 launch.

What happens to the spacecraft once they're beyond the solar system is uncer-



Satellite photo courtesy NASA/JPL-Caltech

tain, according to the newspaper report. No spacecraft has ever made it that far, so the territory is uncharted.



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Outstanding leasing opportunity

The newest building on the Mound campus is available for lease. Built in 2003, and located at 1390 Vanguard Blvd. near the south entrance to the site, the one-story brick building is loaded with features:

- 24,000-square-foot building provides 4,550 square feet of office space, and 19,450 square feet of manufacturing/warehouse space
- Building can be divided into 4,800-square-foot increments
- Structural steel form construction with block, brick and glass exterior walls; floor of concrete slab on grade

- Central station AHU HVAC system; gas heat 120/208V – 3-Phase and 200 amp/Bay or 1,200 building total electrical service
- 5 truck drive-in and dock doors with 16-foot ceiling height
- 48 parking spaces
- Wet sprinkler system
- 100-pair Cooper line for communications.

If you know of a company looking for a good location, great amenities and a business-friendly environment, please contact Mound Development Corporation at



937-865-4462 or Gerry Smith at Miller Valentine-GEM at 937-297-9368 with your inquiries.

