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EXPANSIONS AND CONTRACTIONS

Southern Tier Region

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EXPANSIONS, OPENINGS AND RECALLS:

NEW THIS MONTH

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) awarded a \$104 million contract to **Alstom Transport**'s plant in Hornell (Steuben County) for the overhaul of 86 Green Line light-rail vehicles. Work at the plant -- owned by a large French conglomerate -- is expected to last 2-3 years. Back in 2007, the company had about 1,100 employees. However, it then experienced major layoffs, shedding about 900 workers, due to an industry-wide slowdown. Railcars are a priority of the Southern Tier's Regional Economic Development Council. (*Article Date: June 7, 2012*)

The **Corning Museum of Glass** is planning a \$64 million expansion that will include one of the world's largest facilities for glassblowing demonstrations. It's scheduled for completion in 2014. The expansion's preliminary design calls for a new North Wing, featuring light-filled galleries for the museum's collection of contemporary works in glass. The museum's new glassmaking space will be able to accommodate 500 people and offer 360-degree views of the process. The museum attracts some 400,000 visitors annually. (*Article Date: June 1, 2012*)

Norwich Pharmaceuticals Inc. signed a contract with the state to move forward with significant facility upgrades. The company received a \$2 million from the Southern Tier's Regional Economic Development Council. The project will make the company an even stronger competitor in the pharmaceutical and biotech industries. The upgrades have the potential to create and retain 361 good-paying jobs, while spurring local economic growth by paying over \$214 million in payroll over the next 10 years. The total project cost is nearly \$40 million. (*Article Date: May 30, 2012*)

The United States Postal Service processing center in Binghamton, once among 223 nationwide slated to close, is now set to remain open until at least 2014. Under plans announced by the USPS in February 2012, mail from the area would have been rerouted through Syracuse before reaching its destination — even if that destination was another address in Greater Binghamton. The about-face preserves overnight mail delivery in the Southern Tier, and affects nearly 200 workers. Under the now-abandoned plans, mail processing jobs from the area would have been sent to Syracuse. (*Article Date: May 17, 2012*)

NEW LAST MONTH

Greek-style yogurt maker **Chobani** is this year's winner of the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2012 Entrepreneurial Success of the Year Award. The company was selected for its dramatic growth in sales, employees, and business size as well as for its charitable contributions. Chobani got its start in 2005 using an SBA-backed loan to purchase a closed Kraft Foods plant in South Edmeston (Chenango County). The company started with five employees and a yogurt product sold to a single grocery store on Long Island. Today, Chobani is the top-selling yogurt company in the country, shipping 1.7 million cases a week to stores nationwide. In 2011, Chobani expanded its operations abroad, and began selling in Australia and Canada. The company employs more than 1,200, and will hire another 400 later this year when it opens a new production facility in Twin Falls, ID. The 900,000-square-foot, high-efficiency facility will be the largest yogurt plant in the country. (*Article Date: May 1, 2012*)

The **Village of Painted Post** (Steuben County) could earn more than \$4 million a year selling its water to a northern Pennsylvania gas driller for hydraulic fracturing. SWEPI LP, a Houston-based subsidiary of Shell Oil, agreed to pay .01106 cents a gallon for water, according to the agreement. The company will be billed on a monthly basis. The village will sell at least 314 million gallons of water to SWEPI over the terms of the five-year agreement. SWEPI agreed to pay the village \$154,840 in advance for the first 14 million gallons of water. (*Article Date: May 1, 2012*)

As part of its SUNY 2020 plan, **Binghamton University** (Broome County) unveiled plans for a \$70 million smart energy building to add to the school's Innovative Technologies Complex. The university is seeking \$35 million in state aid through a competitive grant program called SUNY 2020. The facility would house research programs that deal with solar and thermoelectric energy harvesting, energy storage, energy efficiency in electronic systems and sensor development for energy resource management. Binghamton estimated the facility would add \$77.5 million annually in economic benefits to the region, in part by linking the research of private businesses, such as IBM and Lockheed Martin, with the college. The construction work is slated to start later this year and finish by fall 2017, college officials said. The college would fund \$35 million for the project: \$10 million through equipment purchases, \$15 million through private fundraising and \$10 million from the college's own funds. The college estimated that the facility would create more than 840 new jobs and have an annual economic impact of \$1 billion over the next five years. (*Article Date: April 26, 2012*)

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED

A \$3.1 million campaign for a new expanded emergency department at **Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital** in Bath (Steuben County) is underway. The private campaign has raised \$2.1 million to date. The goal for the public phase of the campaign is \$980,000. Improvements funded by the campaign include expanding the footprint of the Emergency Department by 66 percent. (*Article Date: March 28, 2012*)

The state's dairy farmers need to produce 15 percent more milk to supply the state's booming Greek yogurt markets. For Southern Tier farmers, this means the region's 96,400 dairy cows

need to boost milk production by about 3 million gallons per year to meet the needs of growing yogurt businesses like Agro Farma in New Berlin (Chenango County). Both volatile milk prices as well as below premium product payments made by yogurt manufacturers remain as obstacles to growing the state's yogurt industry. (*Article Date: March 16, 2012*)

Six new hotels are now proposed for the Arnot Mall retail area in Horseheads (Chemung County). County officials are chalking up the potential development to the natural gas industry, local business growth, and Finger Lakes tourism. (*Article Date: March 10, 2012*)

Ben Weitsman and Son, a large metals recycling company headquartered in Owego (Tioga County), is planning a \$5 million facelift to its facility in Binghamton (Broome County). The plan includes the replacement of buildings that are more than 100 years old, as well as a storm-water treatment plant to avoid contaminating ground water. (*Article Date: March 7, 2012*)

The town of Lansing (Tompkins County), a suburb of the city of Ithaca, is poised for a crush of new home and apartment construction projects as utility and infrastructure upgrades (sewer line) coupled with significant housing demand attract developers to the area. A total of 500 or more homes and apartments may be realized in the town over the next decade. (*Article Date: February 24, 2012*)

NextEra Energy is considering a \$200 million wind energy project across four towns in Chemung and Schuyler counties. Initial plans call for 50-75 wind turbines. (*Article Date: February 23, 2012*)

Railcar manufacturer **CAF USA** in Elmira Heights (Chemung County) has begun to add staff as work commences on the company's \$298 million contract with Amtrak. The local workforce is expected to grow to 350 at the peak of production. (*Article Date: January 30, 2012*)

Dairy product manufacturer **Agro Farma** will receive a tax exemption incentive totaling \$3,837,297 to assist with its latest expansion in Columbus (Chenango County). The \$134 million expansion project is expected to result in 106 full-time positions. (*Article Date: December 8, 2011*)

A pair of construction projects are planned in the Southern Tier region. The **Greater Binghamton Airport** in the Town of Union (Broome County) will use a \$12.3 million federal grant to add 200 feet of safety area to its runway. In addition, ground was broken for the final phase of the \$9 million airport runway extension project at the **Elmira-Corning Airport** in Big Flats (Chemung County). That project is expected to be completed in late 2012. (*Article Date: October 11, 2011; Article Date: September 27, 2011*)

The 751,000 square-foot **CVS Caremark** distribution center officially opened in the Town of Chemung (Chemung County). A total of 300 jobs are expected in 2011, and a total of 600 people are expected to be employed there as it ramps up to full capacity in 2012. (*Article Date: September 28, 2011*)

Ground was broken on the 107-unit **Colonial Square** senior apartment complex in Gang Mills (Steuben County). The first tenants will be able to move in September 1, 2012, if construction goes as scheduled. (*Article Date: August 23, 2011*)

TTA Systems, a railcar manufacturer in Hornell (Steuben County), applied for a state community block grant. The grant would bring in \$450,000 for new machinery at TTA's Hornell location and would lead to 30 new jobs in 2012-2013. (*Article Date: August 22, 2011*)

Steel and custom pipe manufacturer **Chemung Supply** in Horseheads (Chemung County) plans to double its workforce with tax breaks from the county IDA. The company plans to build a 4,500 square-foot office building and two 10,000 square-foot buildings. They also plan to add about 40 to 45 jobs over the next five years. (*Article Date: August 18, 2011*)

Owners of the **Ithaca Beer Company** broke ground on a new \$3 million, 15,000 square-foot facility in the town of Ithaca (Tompkins County). Construction will begin this fall, and the new facility should be open to the public by June 2012. (*Article Date: August 17, 2011*)

Plans for a \$41 million hotel and convention center at **Tioga Downs Casino** in Nichols (Tioga County) are under way. The goal is to make the facility more of a play, eat and stay destination for consumers. The hotel will include up to 132 rooms, a convention center with banquet halls for weddings and other events, a restaurant and a covered parking area for up to 224 vehicles. An estimated 75 full-time jobs will be created to staff the hotel. Construction on the hotel is expected to start no later than March 2013 to be completed in 2014. Tioga Downs now has about 300 employees. (*Article Date: July 6, 2011*)

The **Alternate School for Math and Science**, a privately-funded school for 6-8th graders which is focused on experiential studies in Corning (Steuben County), broke ground June 25 on a 35,000 square-foot expansion. The project is being funded by Corning Incorporated. The new building will include two science rooms, music rehearsal and instructional space, a gymnasium with shower rooms and storage, an art room, computer network space and an elevated walkway connecting the new building to the existing school. (*Article Date: June 15, 2011*)

Miller Environmental Group, Inc. is opening an office in Elmira (Chemung County). The company is involved in the gas drilling industry doing pipeline inspections and cleaning, transporting wastewater and frack (hydraulic fracturing) tank rentals. When the company completes the renovations at the 9,000 square-foot warehouse building and becomes operational, between 12 and 20 employees will be hired during the first year. (*Article Date: May 26, 2011*)

Affordable Senior Housing of New York Inc., a Buffalo-area developer, received final approval from the local planning board to develop a 125-unit senior housing complex in Johnson City (Broome County). (*Article Date: April 27, 2011*)

The Newman Development Group officially broke ground on its \$12 million student housing project -- **Twin River Commons** -- in Binghamton (Broome County). The housing project will open in August 2012 -- in time for the fall semesters at Binghamton University and Broome Community College. (*Article Date: April 26, 2011*)

Transonic Systems Inc., which manufactures blood flow measurement devices, broke ground on a 30,000 square-foot expansion in Lansing (Tompkins County). The new facility, to be used primarily for manufacturing, is expected to generate about 50 additional jobs over the next three years. (*Article Date: March 23, 2011*)

United Health Services, which operates a 916-bed hospital and health care system serving the greater Binghamton region, kicked off its fundraising campaign for a \$5 million expansion of the ICU at Wilson Medical Center in Johnson City (Broome County). The expansion is the first major upgrade to the unit since the mid-1970s. (*Article Date: March 9, 2011*)

Construction is under way on the New York State Center of Excellence in Small Scale Systems Integration and Packaging (S3IP) at **Binghamton University** (Broome County). The \$30 million, 114,000 square-foot building will provide space for expansion and consolidation of S3IP and its team of scientists and engineers. The facility will undertake research and commercialization efforts in energy-efficient electronic systems, systems integration and packaging, flexible electronics, autonomous solar power, advanced materials and sensors, and health care and life sciences. The project will support 180 temporary construction jobs. (*Article Date: October 14, 2010*)

United Health Services plans to build a \$35 million "state-of-the-art medical practice" in Vestal (Broome County). The 85,000 square-foot facility is slated to open in spring 2012. It will include primary care physician offices, a walk-in center, X-ray and other imaging services, and a retail pharmacy. (*Article Date: May 17, 2010*)

LAYOFFS AND CLOSINGS:

NEW THIS MONTH

More than 180 jobs will be lost in school districts in Broome, Tioga and Chenango counties in the upcoming school year. Cuts are expected through a district varying balance of attrition and layoff. (*Article Dates: Various throughout May 2012*)

NEW LAST MONTH

Lockheed Martin announced a "voluntary layoff" program to cut between 450 and 500 employees in its Missions Systems & Sensors (MS2) program. A specific number has not been announced at the Owego (Tioga County) facility. Lockheed has roughly 14,000 employees in the MS2 program, system-wide. The overwhelming majority of the 2,700 Lockheed employees in Owego (Tioga County) are involved in MS2. (*Article Date: April 6, 2012*)

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED

Many local school districts have proposed workforce reductions to deal with budget shortfalls. Most recent announcements and proposed staff cuts include:

- Elmira School District (Chemung County) – 126 (*Article Date: March 28, 2012*)

- Union Endicott School District (Broome County) – 27 (*Article Date: March 26, 2012*)
- Vestal Central School District (Broome County) – 26 (*Article Date: March 22, 2012*)
- Hornell School District (Steuben County) – 20 (*Article Date: March 23, 2012*)
- Watkins Glenn School District (Schuyler County) – 15 (*Article Date: April 3, 2012*)

LABOR DISPUTES:

NEW THIS MONTH

Nothing to report.

NEW LAST MONTH

Nothing to report.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED

Nothing to report.

This report contains information derived from media releases throughout the Southern Tier Region. Information sources include, but are not limited to:

Action News (WBNG TV)
 FOX 40 (WICZ TV)
 Greater Binghamton Press & Sun Bulletin
 New Channel 34 (WIVT/WBGH TV)
 News 10 Now
 The Canisteo Valley News
 The Cooperstown Crier
 The Cornell Daily Sun
 The Corning Leader
 The Daily Star (Otsego County)
 The Elmira Star Gazette
 The Evening Sun (Chenango County)
 The Greater Binghamton Business Journal
 The Hornell Evening Tribune
 The Ithaca Journal
 The Ithaca Times
 The Lansing Star
 The Observer, Review & Express
 The Odessa File (Schuyler County)
 The Steuben Courier
 WENY TV News

AVAILABLE ON THE WEB AT:

<http://www.labor.ny.gov/stats/sou/souec.shtm>