



PRESS RELEASE

Thursday, May 12, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



ECIDA Robbie-Ann McPherson,
310.433.7443 cell

A new era begins at former Bethlehem Steel site in Lackawanna: Local manufacturer TMP Technologies becomes first business to open doors at new Renaissance Commerce Park

*Erie County Executive joins Lackawanna Mayor, State and company officials
for official ribbon cutting ceremony*

Lackawanna— Cleaning products manufacturer TMP Technologies/TRS (“TMP”) officially became the first business to open at Renaissance Commerce Park (“RCP”) Thursday, as officials cut the ribbon on TMP’s brand new, 280,000 square foot manufacturing facility. TMP manufactures the popular “Magic Eraser” cleaning sponge at the new location, on acreage where the former Bethlehem Steel complex once stood.

Erie County Executive Mark C. Poloncarz said, “Today is a significant day in the redevelopment of this parcel and we are witnessing a big step in the transformation of what was once an unused industrial site into a modern business park. As the new Renaissance Commerce Park continues to take shape more businesses will locate here on Dona Street, in this historic place where thousands of our forebears labored to build their American Dream out of steel and sweat. I thank TMP Technologies for investing in Lackawanna and Erie County, and I thank our partners for their work in reaching this milestone.”

TMP Technologies, in need of room to expand their Western New York manufacturing operations, began looking at the Renaissance Commerce Park acreage in 2019. They purchased approximately 26 acres along the new Dona Street Extension and engaged local construction company Kulbacks as general contractor for the project. Construction began in the summer of 2020, and the \$22 million facility was partially operational by the fall of 2021.

“We are proud to be the first manufacturer at Renaissance Commerce Park,” **said TMP Technologies President Robert Laughlin.** “In 2019, our facility was at full capacity. When we began our search for a site to expand our manufacturing operations, our first consideration was to find a local site to maintain our commitment to our Western New York workforce but there were no existing buildings available. This site checked all the boxes and being a part of the significant transformation happening here is an added bonus for us. On behalf of TMP, we thank our many partners and our employee family for making this day possible.”

Currently TMP employs 150 full-time workers at Renaissance Commerce Park. In addition to the “Magic Eraser” cleaning sponge manufactured at the Lackawanna facility, TMP’s two other Western New York facilities produce products ranging from Polymer Insulators used in the utility markets, consumer and medical applicators and a variety of hydrophilic foam products.

The Erie County Industrial Development Agency (“ECIDA”), through its land-development arm, the Industrial Development Land Corporation (“ILDC”), has served as redevelopment manager of Renaissance Commerce Park, which now encompasses 240 acres of the former Bethlehem Steel site just west of Route 5. RCP has been in development since 2017, when the ILDC closed on the purchase of the first 90 acres on the site from previous owner Tecumseh Steel.

“Today’s ribbon cutting is the long-awaited result of a steadfast, years-long collaboration among dozens of public and private entities, including our state, local and county elected officials, Empire State Development, the City of Lackawanna, Erie County, National Grid, the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Economic Development Administration, Tecumseh Redevelopment, National Fuel Gas, and so many more. For almost forty years, this site had been a reminder of the economic and emotional wounds endured by Lackawanna and the Western New York Community when the steel plant shut its doors; but this is a measurable turning point, especially for the residents of Lackawanna. I congratulate TMP, welcome them to Renaissance Commerce Park, and thank them for making today’s celebration possible,” **said ILDC President and CEO John Cappellino.**

“The City of Lackawanna extends a warm welcome to the 150 TMP employees now working at this wonderful new production facility in Renaissance Commerce Park,” **said Lackawanna Mayor Annette Iafallo.** “It’s a tremendous thrill to have Lackawanna, New York now be known as ‘the place where the Magic Eraser is made,’ and we’re grateful for the significant investment TMP has made in our community.”

“Governor Hochul knows the importance of repurposing former industrial and brownfield sites to not only protect the environment, but to jumpstart economic development that can help to rebuild communities. New York State is proud to have taken the lead, through property acquisition and brownfield remediation, in transforming the long-vacant former Bethlehem Steel complex. Last fall, the Governor announced the selection of final cleanup plans for an estimated \$69 million remediation of the site,” **said Empire State Development Commissioner and President & CEO Hope Knight.** “ESD is proud to have supported TMP Technologies with more than \$1 million in incentives, and today congratulates the company on being the first business to open at Renaissance Commerce Park, where it will work toward a brighter future for Western New York.”

The momentum continues at Renaissance Commerce Park, as ILDC markets the site to local developers, manufacturers, and national site selectors.

Uniland Development is constructing a warehouse/distribution facility next to TMP, and recently signed a purchase agreement for a similar “spec” building on an adjacent parcel.

Erie County and the ILDC are working on Phase II, which will extend Renaissance Commerce Park 30 acres just South of Dona Street Extension. The new parcels will allow the Shoreline Trail Bike Path to continue south to Woodlawn Beach.