

Facility Enhances Economy

Groundbreaking For Pioneer's Soybean Production Plant Promotes Economic Development In Missouri

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NEW MADRID, MO.

Ground was broken Monday, May 17, for DuPont business Pioneer Hi-Bred's new \$55 million commercial and parent soybean seed production facility in New Madrid County, Mo. The facility will employ 50 new workers when it is fully operational. Additional workers may be added during peak production schedules. Opening date is set for the fall of 2011.

Greg Wichmann, Pioneer's business director for the Southern Business Unit, praised the farmers in southeast Missouri, many of whom he knows well through his prior work as district sales manager in the area.

"This is a unique area," he said. "The farmers here are very progressive, they're early adopters, they have excellent management practices."

nology, while bringing to our state more of the next-generation jobs that will be pivotal in our future economy," he added. "This new facility will be a key link in a chain of one of America's most innovative agricultural businesses as it produces the high quality commercial and par-



Manning the shovels at this milestone for Pioneer and the state of Missouri were from left to right: Clyde M. Hawes, Presiding Commissioner, New Madrid County; Paul Schickler, President, Pioneer Hi-Bred; Jay Nixon, Governor of Missouri; Jo Ann Emerson, U.S. Representative and Alejandro Munoz, Vice President, North America, Pioneer Hi-Bred



Photo on Left: Expressing her pride in the project and thanks to Pioneer was Missouri Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson.

Photo on Right: Missouri Governor Jay Nixon said, "Pioneer's decision to build this innovative facility in New Madrid County further enhances Missouri's strength in agriculture and biotechnology, while bringing to our state more of the next-generation jobs that will be pivotal in our future economy."



Wichmann added, "This is a very high yield environment, one of the highest yield environments in the southern part of the United States. Plus, there's great irrigation water

ent soybean seeds for growers all over the southern United States."

The state of Missouri's financial support for the new



Addressing the crowd at the groundbreaking ceremony of Pioneer Hi-Bred's new parent soybean seed facility was Paul Schickler. Seated on his left is Clyde M. Hawes, Presiding Commissioner, New Madrid County, seated at his right is Missouri Governor Jay Nixon and far right is Missouri Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson.

here to produce quality seed. Those are three key ingredients that any seed company would consider when they're looking for a production site. This is something we've been talking to our company about for quite some time."

The new facility will be located on a 129-acre site just outside New Madrid. As a soybean seed production plant, facility employees will focus on contracting acres with area farmers for production of Group IV and V soybean seed varieties for the South, as well as harvesting, cleaning, bagging and distributing the seed. The warehouse itself will be the size of five and one-half football fields.

Paul E. Schickler, President, Pioneer Hi-Bred, called the new endeavor "a great partnership between private enterprise, federal government, state government and local government. We really look forward to the relationship that we are establishing."

"This is a milestone for both Pioneer and the state of Missouri," he added. "Together we have a vision for the site that we're standing on today. By partnering with the state of Missouri we've also been able to make our vision a reality. When finished in 2011, Pioneer will open the state of the art facility to meet the growing demand for Pioneer soybeans in the southern United States, which will ultimately help gain market share and deliver against the strong world wide demand for grain."

This is one of the largest production and construction activities that Pioneer has undertaken in recent years and the company's first production plant in Missouri. The New Madrid plant, when completed, will be at least the same size or larger than the company's soybean seed production facility in Brazil, which now is the largest in the world.

Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon said the key to building the state's economic recovery is securing the investment in Missouri by high-tech, high-paying companies such as Pioneer and the creation of new jobs for hardworking Missourians. He cited "the outpouring of unanimity on this important project."

"Pioneer's decision to build this innovative facility in New Madrid County further enhances Missouri's strength in agriculture and biotech-

facility included \$2.1 million in Enhanced Enterprise Zone tax credits; \$540,000 funding from the Community Development Block Grant Industrial Infrastructure Program; \$230,000 in New Jobs Training Program funding; a \$250,000 forgivable loan from the Missouri Technology Corporation; and other incentives.

Missouri Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson told Pioneer: "Thanks for believing in us."

"I don't think you will find better producers, a better county in which to operate, and certainly a more non-partisan delegation of state, local and federal representatives when it comes to anything regarding economic development," she said. "We are a team. We work together. Politics is not part of it. All we care about is for our workers, our communities to have an investment like this; and a belief in our work ethic and our ability to produce fabulous seed for Pioneer and the rest of the country and world. I am very proud."

Pioneer already has a strong presence in Missouri. They have a research facility in Miami, Mo., as well as a network of sales professionals selling corn, soybean, sorghum and wheat seed in the state.

While Pioneer is engaged in a number of expansions around the world, each one has a unique characteristic and set of important qualities.

"This location is important to Pioneer. It's rich fertile soils and population will be a key to our success," Schickler said.

The company's has plans for new research facilities and space for 400 new research positions based in Johnston, Iowa; expansion of the Center for Dryland Research in eastern North Carolina; expansion of its research facilities in Union City, Tenn.; expansion of drought research in Manhattan, Kan., and Plainview, Texas; a new research center in Ithaca, Mich.; and expansion at Hermiston, Ore. These additional resources represent the commitment by Pioneer to provide better products for the specific needs of growers' unique operations. Δ

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