



Austrian Firm Opens Georgia Facility



ALPLA CEO Helmut Scheffknecht (left) arrived from Austria to help celebrate the opening. With him are Jackie Rohosky and Kurt Berkmann, ALPLA senior VP of North America.

ALPLA, a world-renowned plastic bottle manufacturer, celebrated its official grand opening June 27 at a gala luncheon on the grounds of its McDonough facility.

A lineup of local and state dignitaries and officials from ALPLA's headquarters in Austria addressed some 100 invited guests in a spacious white tent erected for the occasion. Guests were treated to an informative plant tour, viewing mammoth extrusion blow-molding machines that feature monitoring capability for high-tech quality control.

With more than 5,400 employees worldwide, ALPLA considers its

workforce to be key to its success, emphasizing thorough preparation of team members to ensure a smooth start-up of operations. At the McDonough plant, Quick Start has trained 46 employees on topics ranging from conveyers and pneumatics to industrial safety and mechanical blueprint reading.

"It was very easy for us to work with Quick Start," CEO Helmut Scheffknecht said, highlighting the efficiency of the training program. "We had a very good experience with Quick Start."

Kurt Berkmann, senior vice president, added that Quick Start complemented ALPLA's in-house technical training. "Being new in the country, we needed a lot of input and training in terms of safety, security and other areas," he said. "Quick Start did a marvelous job of joining the technical side with other aspects in a flexible program."

The McDonough plant produces bottles for Clorox, with plans under way to serve additional customers. Construction recently began on another, 52,000-sq.-ft. building on ALPLA's campus to host new production lines and a new Technical Training Center that will serve as R&D hub for its U.S. operations.

Berkmann said he would recommend Quick Start to other European firms wanting to locate in Georgia. "Any company coming into this country would appreciate the help that ALPLA got from Quick Start," he said.

Kurt Berkmann leads the ceremonies, joined by Austrian company officials Helmut Scheffknecht (seated, left) and Gunther Lehner, CEO of R&D.



Present at the recent training plan signing were (from left) Craig Rowland, Milco VP of sales; Ron Purvis, Milco executive VP; W.L. Rowland, Milco president and CEO; Don Speir, Swainsboro Technical College president; Marla Lowe, Quick Start director of regional project operations; Donny Purvis, Milco plant manager; and Mike Patrick, Quick Start training coordinator.

Jobs Created in Swainsboro

After Florida revised its building codes to mandate the use of windows that can withstand frequent hurricanes — and with other East Coast states planning to follow suit — Swainsboro-based Milco Building Products decided it could help.

In an expansion to its existing plant, Milco acquired a 58,000-sq.-ft. facility to fabricate and assemble a line of vinyl, hurricane-resistant windows, patio glass doors, and security and hurricane screens. Quick Start trained 60 employees in such areas as welding, saw operations, glass room assembly and vinyl bending.

Also in Swainsboro, JABO Metal Fabrication recently geared up production at its new, 70,000-sq.-ft. facility, employing approximately 20 people. JABO, which is new to Georgia, manufactures aluminum and steel sheet-metal products and related trim products used to finish metal utility buildings. Quick Start training will be provided in the areas of manufacturing process, plant safety, roll forming operations, slitter operation, and cranes and rigging. 

Pictured (from left) are Don Speir, Swainsboro Technical College president; Marla Lowe, Quick Start director of regional project operations; and Don Flanders, JABO president.

