



Arctic Cat looks to add 50 jobs with \$7M expansion

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Arctic Cat is planning to double its number of employees as part of a nearly \$7 million expansion at its facility off Opportunity Drive in St. Cloud.

Arctic Cat, which manufactures snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles, is planning to build a \$1.3 million manufacturing and testing facility to the east of its current facility. The company also plans to build a \$5.6 million addition to the north of its existing

manufacturing facility.

"It is significant," said Cathy Mehelich, St. Cloud economic development director, of Arctic Cat's plans to double their employee roster. "It's a significant investment in not only their footprint, but also their operations here in St. Cloud."

St. Cloud City Council unanimously approved Monday establishing a tax-increment financing district for the \$5.6 million addition.



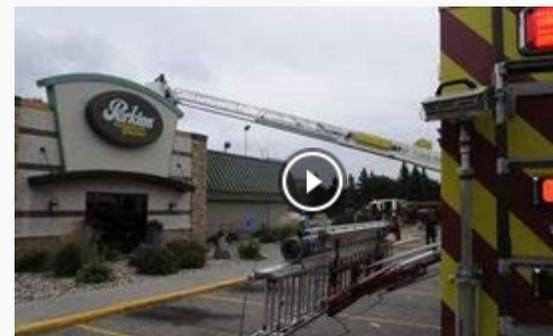
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The expansion will take place in two phases, Mehelich said. The first phase includes the development of the manufacturing and testing facility and enhanced site improvements on approximately 38 acres to the east of Arctic Cat's existing facility, just south of New Flyer. The second phase includes the development of the approximately 67,000-square-foot addition to Arctic Cat's existing manufacturing facility.

The second phase of the project, the building expansion, is proposed to create at least 50 new jobs with an average wage of at least \$24 per hour. The agreement with the city stipulates Arctic Cat create the new jobs within two years of the expansion's

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completion, as well as retain the 51 existing full-time positions at the St. Cloud operation.

"A lot of these will be technical positions, engineering positions," Mehelich said.

Scott Doyle, plant manager at Arctic Cat in St. Cloud, said the company will be hiring experienced workers as well as new college graduates.

Council President Jeff Goerger said the expansion will also create construction jobs, in addition to the 50 new full-time employees.

"I'm proud to have Arctic Cat in our city," Goerger said.



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The project includes tax-increment financing up to \$293,508 payable over a nine-year term to supplement private financing needed to support the building addition. The addition is expected to generate an estimated \$4.5 million taxable market value.

Last year, Arctic Cat invested about \$400,000 to complete a 17,000-square-foot mezzanine addition in its St. Cloud manufacturing plant, Mehelich said.

Arctic Cat can begin work on the testing area this fall. The company plans to begin work on the manufacturing facility expansion next spring.

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