



Arctic Cat production comes to St. Cloud from overseas



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The new owner of Arctic Cat is planning to move production of one of its engines from overseas to a plant in St. Cloud.

A spokesperson for Textron, which purchased Arctic Cat in January, told the Thief River Falls Times the company is moving the production of the Stampede engine from a plant outside Berlin, Germany, to the St. Cloud facility.

Cathy Mehelich, economic development director for St. Cloud, confirmed the announcement Wednesday. She said she is unsure how many new jobs might be created with the move.

"We don't have that information yet. We just heard the release this afternoon," Mehelich said. "We have been in talks with Textron officials since the purchase of Arctic Cat earlier this year."

Textron also announced Tuesday it will be closing the former Arctic Cat headquarters in Minneapolis, according to the Thief River Falls Times. The report also states that Textron plans to move production of a vehicle to a plant in Thief River Falls.

"We're really excited to hear about this announcement and what that could mean for the St. Cloud facility," Mehelich said, adding that company representatives have indicated to city officials they are excited about the St. Cloud plant's state-of-the-art facilities." To that, it comes as no big surprise, but we're certainly excited about the news."

In September, Arctic Cat announced plans to double its number of employees as part of a nearly \$7 million expansion at its facility off Opportunity Drive. That project proposed the creation of at least 50 new jobs with an average wage of at least \$24 per hour.

"We're extremely pleased with Arctic Cat's decision to expand operations here in St. Cloud," said Mayor Dave Kleis. "They've been a tremendous asset to St. Cloud. This

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move solidifies that commitment to our community."

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