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Local business will reopen to supply bricks to state hospital construction project

Oregon's contract with Gresham masonry creates living-wage jobs

In its continuing effort to go green and stay local, the State of Oregon selected Mutual Materials of Gresham to supply bricks for the Oregon State Hospital replacement project.

"For four years, this construction project will provide opportunities for Oregon businesses and good jobs and benefits for hundreds of Oregonians and their families," said Gov. Ted Kulongoski. "With the selection of Mutual Materials, this project continues to hire local, creating an opportunity for an Oregon business hit hard by the recession to reopen and rehire."

Mutual Materials, founded in 1900, currently has about 550 full-time employees in manufacturing plants and distribution facilities throughout the Northwest and British Columbia. However, due to the recent economic downturn the company had shut down its Gresham masonry. The Oregon State Hospital contract, negotiated by Hoffman Construction Company, will allow Mutual Materials to restart its masonry, creating dozens of jobs.

"Whether it's making bricks in Gresham or laying bricks in Salem, I know that given the opportunity, Oregonians will work their way out of this recession," said Senate President Peter Courtney (D-Salem/Gervais/Woodburn). "Today's announcement shows how an investment in a facility designed to help the less fortunate rebuild their lives will also provide a boost to rebuilding our economy."

(more)

In addition to creating jobs in Oregon, the contract with Mutual Materials helps the state meet its environmental objectives.

“Mutual Materials uses locally harvested materials, local manufacturing and local labor,” said Steve Riley of HOK, the project’s architectural firm. “The company is known for producing products that are earth friendly, durable and that contribute to sustainable designs.”

The construction of the 620-bed replacement hospital is scheduled to be completed in late 2011. To date, the project has contracted with many Oregon-based businesses to provide services, building materials and workers. Of the 104 subcontractors and vendors currently working on the project, 100 are from Oregon and Vancouver, Wash., and all 210 workers currently on site are from Oregon.

For more information about the new construction, go to www.oregon.gov/DHS/HRP/.

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