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Jobs at YKK's new plant in Macon up to about 60

By Linda S. Morris - lmorris@macon.com

YKK AP America is a subsidiary of YKK Corp. of America, which has operated YKK USA Inc. -- the zipper subsidiary - off Ocmulgee East Boulevard in Macon since 1974. In 2004, the parent company announced it would begin setting up the new venture in a vacant building the company owns, and it would employ about 10 people from the existing YKK plant to set up the new operation and begin making samples.

"It officially opened as a company Jan. 1, 2007," Crawford said.

YKK's new business is not expected to replace or affect the company's architectural products plant in Dublin, which manufactures aluminum doors and windows for the commercial market, company officials have said.

YKK AP America has been in business in Georgia since the mid-1980s and built its Dublin plant in 1992, according to a news release.

"While YKK started as a zipper manufacturing company in 1934, worldwide two-thirds of our local annual sales are for architectural products," Crawford said.

During the 2004 announcement, company officials said it was important to locate the new plant close to its users to keep freight costs down. Locating the facility in Macon allowed the company to have a low startup cost since it had the infrastructure in place with security, the building, workers and freight companies already in place.

While officials with the Georgia Department of Economic Development in Atlanta worked with YKK on the new venture during its inception, no state incentives are involved with the project, state officials said.

To contact Linda S. Morris, call 744-4223.