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Adams Manufacturing moving into old Heraeus building

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ELLWOOD CITY -- A successful regional manufacturer is planning to move into a vacant building in the Casey Industrial Park.

Adams Manufacturing, based in Portersville, confirmed Wednesday that it has acquired the former Heraeus Electro-Nite factory, 3 Fountain Ave., Ellwood City. The structure will be Adams' third Ellwood City location, with the company also using space on Factory Avenue and Early Way in the borough.

The company's two current Ellwood City properties are used as a warehouse for materials such as plastic furniture and garden equipment, but the new building's use has not yet been determined, said Dan Stainer, Adams director of marketing.

"We're kind of fleshing things out now," Stainer said.

In addition to its three Ellwood City sites, Adams Manufacturing has a property in New Castle, with its main manufacturing facility on Route 422 in Muddy Creek Township. The corporate offices are located off Route 19 in Portersville.

Stainer said the new facility was necessary because of expected growth in the company, particularly in e-commerce. While Adams manufactures items that are sold in retail chains such as Wal-Mart and Lowe's, the company is seeing increased online direct orders.

With orders to retail outlets, Stainer said Adams Manufacturing transports manufactured items to the retail chains' warehouses for delivery to stores. Online orders through major e-retailers such as Amazon work much the same way.

But Adams executives are expecting growth in direct-to-customer online sales, Stainer said.

"Our products are doing extremely well in the marketplace," he said. "With e-commerce, a lot of times we're handling the packages individually."

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The Fountain Avenue facility's role in that growth is still being determined, with a final plan established later this year, Stainer said. While final job growth figures are not available, it is possible that the new building will bring additional jobs.

"You have to staff it, and we'll be looking internally and externally," he said.

Adams Manufacturing's new building sits on the former tube mill site and, more recently, was a center for Heraeus Electro-Nite, which closed in 2015 when its corporate parent decided to move its manufacturing operations to facilities in the Midwest.

Heraeus' relocation resulted in the loss of about 200 jobs in the borough.

Ellwood City Manager Robert Villella said the borough is pleased with the move.

"Adams Manufacturing has been a good partner with the community," he said.

Villella said Adams' expanded presence in Ellwood City is an example of efforts by borough officials to attract business. At recent public meetings, the manager and council members said developers have contacted the borough about relocating.

The Adams purchase was one of those efforts, Villella said, and there are more to come.

"Good things are going to happen in Ellwood City," he said.