

Posted on Sun, Dec. 12, 2004

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Coating business opens in Newton

Company celebrates with ribbon-cutting

A company that specializes in coatings, engineering and other services has set up shop in Newton.

Powder River Technologies Inc. hosted a ribbon-cutting Thursday in the Mid-County Business Park.

Powder River Technologies offers services that include powder coating -- a process that produces a hard finish that resists chipping, peeling and scratching -- officials with the Catawba County Economic Development Corp. said. Powder River provides powder coating for Timmerman Manufacturing's outdoor furniture line. The company also offers metal fabrication, engineering services and drafting services.

Mark Sigmon, Powder River's founder, worked for 17 years for Corning Cable Systems, officials said.

Sigmon worked in Corning's research and development department for eight years and spent nine years in Corning's Telecommunications Cable Plant.

Powder River Technologies currently employs two full-time staff members and three part-time workers, including students from Catawba Valley Community College's welding and drafting programs, officials said.

The company hopes to expand its staff to 12-15 employees during the next five years, officials said.

Kitty Barnes, chairwoman of the Catawba County Board of Commissioners, said the company's opening is another sign that the area's economy is rebounding.