

## Quaker Chemical breaks ground on expansion

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Quaker Chemical Corp. has broken ground on a \$19.8 million expansion, a project has been three years in the making that will triple capacity at its Middletown blending plant.

The chemical supplier will be adding 12,000-square-feet in manufacturing space to its facility on 3431 Yankee Road, said Fred Sansom, Quaker's director of operations.

Middletown was competing with the company's Detroit facility for the project. Tax incentives through the city — as well as assistance from the Butler County Port Authority to aid in gaining bonds for the project — helped secure the expansion here, he said.

"We added up the numbers and it became clear that this is the better place to put our money," Sansom said. "(The city and the port authority) have been very supportive. We could not do this expansion without them."

As a result, Quaker will transfer all production, except for metalworking fluids, from its Detroit plant to the Middletown site. This will include the production of steel, cleaner and hydraulic fluids. The move should lower the company's manufacturing costs and improve its cash flow by \$3 million annually, said Ronald Naples, company chairman and CEO.

The project was funded in part by a \$3.5 million Ohio Department of Development loan and \$10 million in industrial development bonds distributed through the port authority. When construction is complete in 2009, Quaker will begin adding about 40 positions to the new facility, mostly in the manufacturing sector, Sansom said.


The groundbreaking culminated three years of designing the expansions, as well as working with the city and port authority to secure the necessary funds for the project.

"It's very exciting for me because I've been working on this project since the very beginning. We're glad it's finally come together," Sansom said.

Conshohocken, Pa.-based Quaker has made three investments in the Middletown plant since acquiring it from United Lubricants in 2002.

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