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InSinkEerator announces \$65 million expansion in Kenosha, Racine counties

InSinkEerator is increasing its manufacturing operations in southeastern Wisconsin by opening a new facility in Kenosha and upgrading its existing one in Racine—a project expected to create 165 new jobs and retain nearly 1,000 existing positions.

InSinkEerator, the world's largest manufacturer of food waste disposers for home and commercial use, will lease a 160,000-square-foot office building in the Business Park of Kenosha on the city's west side. The company, a business of Emerson (NYSE: EMR), also will invest \$43.7 million to purchase new equipment and make renovations at its facility in the City of Racine.

"InSinkEerator is proud to be part of both the Racine and Kenosha communities as we expand our presence and bring more jobs to southeastern Wisconsin," said Tim Ferry, president of InSinkEerator. "In the last 35 years, we've tripled our production at the Racine facility and we're looking forward to continued growth with the addition of the Kenosha facility."

The expansion will address the growing production needs at the current Racine manufacturing facility. The new facility will allow InSinkEerator, the only U.S.-based manufacturer of food waste disposers, to continue to deliver high-quality products and meet increasing customer demand with new innovations and streamlined production. Both facilities will manufacture a variety of products. The first production line in the Kenosha facility is expected to be operational by mid-2015.

"Kenosha County congratulates InSinkEerator on its growth and is excited to see them expand in Southeast Wisconsin," said Kenosha County Executive Jim Kreuser. "We welcome them to Kenosha County and appreciate their commitment to this region."

Kenosha Mayor Keith Bosman remarked, "InSinkEerator's investment is a significant win for Southeast Wisconsin and its manufacturing economy. This area has a highly-skilled workforce, a strategic location and transportation network, and a supportive environment for manufacturing companies."

To assist with the \$65 million project, the Wisconsin Economic Development Authority (WEDC) has authorized up to \$15.5 million in tax credits through 2018 through its Enterprise Zone program. WEDC's Enterprise Zone Tax Credits are available to assist businesses that have major expansion projects, or are relocating major business operations from other states. The actual amount of tax credits will be contingent upon the number of jobs created and retain, and the amount spent on capital investment, employee training and supply chain purchases from Wisconsin vendors.

The Kenosha Area Business Alliance helped assemble local financial assistance in support of the project. Pending necessary approvals, the City of Kenosha will provide assistance through an existing tax increment financing district. KABA is planning to extend a forgivable loan to the company through the High Impact Economic Development Program that was established and funded by Kenosha County to help secure major economic development projects.

The Kenosha Area Business Alliance (KABA) is Kenosha County's economic development organization and business association. A public-private partnership, KABA is focused on making the Kenosha Area a better place to do business, live and work through: (1) Economic Development initiatives that stimulate private sector investment and job creation; (2) Providing programs, products, and services that improve the competitiveness of Kenosha Area employers and their employees; and (3) Educational initiatives aimed at enhancing student achievement and overall school performance.