

FutureMatrix Local Growth Benefits Global Health



Jamye Perelli Photography

By Deborah Dane

In addition to contributing to the health and well-being of millions of people worldwide, FutureMatrix Interventional (FMI) has made significant contributions to the health and well-being of the Athens economy since 1993.

FMI has established a global presence for its expertise in research, design, and manufacturing of life-saving vascular and urological medical devices. “Not only is FMI respected internationally, it has been a highly-respected corporate citizen in Athens as well,” says Lisa Denton, Executive Director of Athens Economic Development Corporation.


For the past 23 years, FMI has been in a steady pattern of growth in Athens, culminating this year in another expansion of their operations in the Athens Industrial Park, where they will construct and equip a new 20,000-square-foot facility to meet the ever-increasing global demand for their products. The latest expansion will result in the company’s Athens operations comprising 80,000 square feet, an exponential increase from the original plant which was located in 1,200 square feet of rental space when the company first opened in 1993.

With a \$200,000 incentive from Athens Economic Development Corporation (AEDC), FMI will make a \$3.3 million capital investment in Athens and will increase employment from 350 to 450 over a three-year period. AEDC will also apply for a Texas Capital Fund Grant to help construct an additional road within the industrial park. This will create a second point of ingress and egress to the park, which will help with the additional traffic in conjunction with this project.

David Nichols, who was named General Manager of FMI in March 2015, attended schools in Van and graduated from Tyler Junior College and the University of Texas at Tyler. He has held a number of positions with FMI since his employment began in 1993. He proudly describes his staff as “long-term employees who have built a career working for our company. Our direct labor folks are typically well skilled with their hands and very detail oriented. Our staff positions are filled with a combination of tenured folks that have been here from the start, as well as new staff members who have integrated into our group to ensure the longevity of the company.”

Mr. Nichols says the additional facility space will allow for new product manufacturing capacity. “Our customers are worldwide leaders in the medical device distribution marketplace. We ship products worldwide, and our products range from very sophisticated devices that are truly one-of-a-kind technology to bulk items that round out the portfolio of many vascular and urological medical device needs,” he says.

What makes Athens an ideal location for this business? Mr. Nichols’s answer is clear: Athens is strategically located in an area that has the attraction of being rural but has the added benefit of proximity to the DFW area, enabling more rapid shipment of FMI products worldwide.

“FMI is a homegrown company that has remained competitive in the medical device industry and has seen great success and growth over the years,” says Ms. Denton. “The opportunity for AEDC to assist with their expansion will help not only FMI but all other companies in the Athens Industrial Park, as well as AEDC and the city as a whole. This is a genuine example of business retention at its finest.” 



EXPLORING THE COMMUNITY ROLE OF AEDC

