

For business editors

Aquion Energy Inc. Announces Selection of RIDC Westmoreland Site for Manufacturing Facility

Welcome to Westmoreland County!

Mount Pleasant, Pa., February 23, 2012 – The Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation’s (WCIDC) Board of Directors Charles W. Anderson, R. Tyler Courtney and Ted Kopas along with the Board of Directors of the Economic Growth Connection of Westmoreland (EGCW) today announces a joint greeting to Aquion Energy Inc. on behalf of the Westmoreland County community. Both, Jason Rigone, WCIDC Executive Director and John Skiavo, EGCW President & CEO, credit Governor Corbett, the Governor’s Action Team and our local partner, the Regional Industrial Development Corporation of Southwestern Pennsylvania (RIDC) for strong leadership in making this project successful.

Aquion Energy Inc., a developer and manufacturer of revolutionary sodium ion batteries and energy storage systems, announced it has selected Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania as the site for its first full-scale manufacturing facility.

Starting in 2012, Aquion will be leasing approximately 250,000 SF within RIDC Westmoreland – Multi-Tenant Facility (former Sony site) located near New Stanton from RIDC. The build-out of the base facility and factory infrastructure will begin immediately and continue throughout 2012. Initial product manufacturing is scheduled to commence in 2013. As part of a first phase manufacturing commitment at this site, Aquion expects to create over 400 high-tech manufacturing jobs by the end of 2015.

“After considering all of our options, including aggressive offers from a number of other U.S. states, we concluded that southwestern Pennsylvania is the best location for Aquion to establish its first high-volume manufacturing operation,” said CEO Scott Pearson. “This project would not have been possible without the strong support of Governor Corbett and the Governor’s Action Team. We are very excited to be able to significantly increase our presence in Pennsylvania and we applaud the efforts of the state, regional and local economic development agencies that worked closely with Aquion to make this expansion possible.”

“What started in 2007, with the use of R&D funding from Carnegie Mellon University, is now a scientific advancement that will be growing jobs and bringing new opportunities to our business community,” said Charles Anderson, Chairman of the Westmoreland County Commissioners. “We are extremely excited to welcome Aquion Energy Inc. to Westmoreland County.”

Aquion, which currently has about 70 employees, may grow to about 200 workers by next year. The company will be hiring workers with machining skills and basic electrical skills, as well as general labourers. Manufacturing, electrical and mechanical engineers will also be hired.



“A real feather in our cap and Westmoreland County’s added incentive to Aquion is the Westmoreland County Community College (WCCC) Workforce Training Facility, which will open in the fall of 2013,” said John Skiavo, President and CEO of EGCW. “WCCC recently signed an agreement with RIDC to lease approximately 70,000 SF for its advanced technology workforce center; a bonus to all companies in the county and specifically those locating in the multi-tenant facility in New Stanton.”

Aquion’s unique technologies and products have been specifically developed to meet the demanding requirements of both small and large-scale energy storage applications. Aquion products provide compelling results on key performance factors including cycle / calendar life, round trip efficiency, discharge abuse tolerance, capital costs, maintenance costs, and safety. In addition, Aquion batteries are inherently green and contain no hazardous materials, corrosive acids or noxious fumes.

Aquion has been supported to date with funding from Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, Foundation Capital, Advanced Technology Ventures, and the U.S. Department of Energy. Aquion was assisted in its factory site selection process by Greenville, SC based consultants McCallum Sweeney.

About Aquion Energy

Aquion Energy, Inc. is a Pittsburgh-based company that is designing and manufacturing a revolutionary type of battery based on the research of Carnegie Mellon University Professor Jay Whitacre. The company has developed a novel, sodium-ion, aqueous electrolyte battery that will enhance the electrical grid by providing flexible, emissions-free capacity that optimizes existing generation assets and enables broad adoption of renewable energy technologies. Aquion’s battery system will also address a myriad of other energy storage application challenges. Beyond minimized cell and system costs and dramatic performance enhancements over incumbent technologies, the company is building batteries that are safe, environmentally benign and long lasting. For more information please see <http://www.aquionenergy.com>.

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