



WAB Associates LLC signs option agreement for 6.23 acres at Westmoreland Business & Research Park

New facility and related expansion project expected to create 50 new jobs

GREENSBURG, PA, April 15, 2021 — The Board of Directors of the Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation — Chair Sean Kertes, Vice Chair Doug Chew and Secretary Gina Cerilli Thrasher — today approved the execution of an option agreement between the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Westmoreland and WAB Associates LLC for the sale of a 6.23-acre lot at [Westmoreland Business & Research Park](#) in Washington Township.

The agreement gives WAB Associates six months to finalize the purchase of Lot 22 for \$218,050. WAB Associates represents the New Jersey-based Weis-Aug Group, which plans to build a 40,000 SF manufacturing and office building on the lot.

“This is great news,” said WCIDC Chair Sean Kertes. “As the parent company to JK Tool, the Weis-Aug Group already has a presence in this industrial park, and the fact that this out-of-state company is choosing to invest again in this industrial park tells us they like what we have to offer. Our location, business climate and skilled workforce make Westmoreland County the smart choice.”

JK Tool — a manufacturing business that employs 25 highly skilled workers — has announced an expansion project that will double the size of its 20,000 SF facility. Between the new construction and the expansion, the Weis-Aug Group expects its number of employs at the industrial park to triple over the next three to five years.

“Since we moved our JK Tool plant to the Westmoreland Business & Research Park in 2017, we have been very pleased with the way the park has been managed and maintained,” said Dieter Weissenrieder, president of Weis-Aug Group. “We also like the business climate, where business decisions can be made rather quickly without much red tape. Consequently, after an extensive business study, we decided to locate this new plant in the same park.”

WCIDC Vice Chair Doug Chew is excited to see nearly all of the lots on the industrial park’s map designated as “sold” or “optioned.”

“This agreement means only one of the industrial park’s 44 lots is available,” Chew said. “When the WCIDC began to draw up plans for this industrial park back in the early 1990s, the goal was to create an atmosphere that would attract tenants that would appreciate the amenities of an industrial park in an attractive campus-like setting. We’ve done just that. In terms of developable acreage, this is our largest industrial park, and only 3.62 of about 260 sellable acres remains. This park has been a remarkable success.”

Encompassing 544 acres in Upper Burrell and Washington townships, Westmoreland Business & Research Park was developed in two phases, with work beginning in 1992. Now home to 21 companies

that employ more than 2,500 workers, the park generates more than \$1.9 million in county and local taxes each year.

“We’re on quite a roll when it comes to economic development in Westmoreland County,” WCIDC Director Gina Cerilli Thrasher said. “This agreement comes on the heels of the [Wyatt, Al. Neyer](#) and [Fossil Industries](#) announcements. That’s four big projects — in just eight months — that are going to add to the Westmoreland economy. And there’s more in the pipeline.”

About WAB Associates

WAB Associates represents the [Weiss-Aug Group](#), the industry leader for precision metal stamping, complex-insert molding and custom assembly. Weiss-Aug has successfully integrated the progressive die tooling supplier [JK Tool](#), as well as the leader for precision medium-gauge complex stampings and assemblies, [The Diemasters](#). This affiliation of companies provides our customers with unparalleled solutions for their custom component needs.

About Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation

Founded in 1983 by the Westmoreland County Board of Commissioners, the Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation implements a comprehensive economic development strategy to promote growth in terms of job creation, economic output and a stable tax base for Westmoreland County. Through the development of a county-wide industrial park system, a responsive Business Calling Program and involvement in public/private partnerships, WCIDC strives to foster business growth, resulting in job opportunities for the citizens of Westmoreland County.
www.WestmorelandCountyIDC.org.

Media Contact:

Jason Rigone, Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation, 724-830-3601,
jrigone@co.westmoreland.pa.us.

###