



Local company receives EODF grant for new technology

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EMC News - It's the latest technology that will help the environment by reducing emissions and create jobs. With that in mind, Stittsville business Laurysen Kitchens has received a provincial government grant for its new state-of-the-art finishing line.

Jim Watson, minister of municipal affairs and housing, announced that Laurysen Kitchens is a recipient of the Eastern Ontario Development Fund grant, worth \$97,500, during a press conference on Friday, Dec. 11.

"Laurysen Kitchens is a great example of an innovative Eastern Ontario company," said Watson, adding that five years ago he purchased a Laurysen Kitchen for his home.

"Small business is the backbone of Ontario's economy, so when the province of Ontario provided funding through the Eastern Ontario Development Fund to allow us to create new jobs and dramatically improve our environment, it was a win-win situation," said Caroline Castrucci, vice-president administration for Laurysen Kitchens.

The EODF grant was used to purchase a UV water-based wood coating finishing line. The environmental benefit of reduced VOCs due to the water based finishing line marks Laurysen's first step towards green manufacturing.

"I am thrilled to see some money flowing into a business in my riding," said Carleton-Mississippi Mills MPP Norm Sterling. "Laurysen Kitchens is a family owned and operated business that has been in Stittsville for almost 40 years and employs 120 people. They are also great corporate citizens who support a long list of community events and organizations including the Ottawa Rotary Club, (CHEO) and many minor sports teams."

Bill Laurysen led Watson, Sterling, Ward 6 councillor Shad Qadri and Ward 2 councillor Eli El-Chantiry through Laurysen Kitchens' warehouse and showed the guests how the new Superfici finishing line machine works.

"Our new finishing line is state of the art and will allow us to produce a superior finish on our cabinets, while enabling the company to increase production by 40 per cent," said Castrucci. "In addition, the drying time will be reduced from two hours to just five minutes by utilizing ultra violet light technology. The most significant improvement however, resulting from this partnering with the province of Ontario, is the positive impact on our local environment."

Sterling introduced the concept of an EODF in 2005 and 2006 where it was debated. In 2008, the McGuinty government announced the creation of the EODF, which provides up to 15 per cent of eligible project expenses for the implementation of new technologies, new equipment or skills training for employees for projects valued at \$500,000 or more. At this time, Laurysen Kitchens has invested \$650,000 into its new finishing line. "When business and government work together, we all win," said Castrucci, who also thanked Laurysen's business partners Superfici, Valspar, Midnight Mechanical and Drough Electric.

Laurysen Kitchens is located at 2415 Carp Rd.