



News Release

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APCOM offers a look at new Franklin addition

Franklin, Tenn.—APCOM will open the doors of its Franklin plant to a group of city officials and members of the Williamson County Chamber of Commerce this week, giving them a look at its recently completed expansion project.

The 57,750 square foot expansion, the first in more than 20 years at the plant, increased the facility's overall size by 40 percent. Earlier in the week, the plant's 285 employees were given an in-depth tour of the addition.

"As our business continues to grow, this expanded manufacturing and distribution space will enable us to better serve our global water heater customers," Paul R. Dana, president of APCOM, observed. "It also gives us added capacity for new products and new customers."

The company broke ground for the addition in December 2015 and completed the project during the fourth quarter of last year.

APCOM is a leading supplier of a wide range of components for residential and commercial water heaters including heating elements, thermostats, and dip tubes.

One of the areas that saw the most significant changes was the plant's warehouse and distribution area, with approximately 34,000 square feet of additional space. The project included five new shipping doors and five receiving doors as well as a ramp and staging area for tractor/trailers.

"We are now able to stage orders, which requires less material handling, and we have adequate rack space for all incoming and outgoing materials," according to Director

of Operations Bill Jacobs. The new distribution center not only has improved shipping efficiency, it has allowed APCOM to eliminate three off-site storage facilities, he said.

“We have been able to save substantial costs by consolidating warehousing into this facility,” Jacobs pointed out. “The more productive layout and added space have helped our warehouse team improve efficiency and reduce overtime.” The new distribution center is operating at about 75 percent of capacity, providing room for growth, he noted.

The service parts department, which supplies replacement water heater parts to a wide range of customers, was relocated and expanded to anticipate future growth. This has allowed APCOM to expand its service parts offering and inventory levels to provide better levels of service to customers, Jacobs said.

“The expansion freed up approximately 9,000 square feet in manufacturing that will allow us to introduce new products or increase the volume of existing products,” Jacobs pointed out.

The company is in the process of relocating and reorganizing a number of departments to improve material flow, enhance efficiency, and accommodate new equipment. The reorganization, which will proceed by department, will take place over the next six to nine months, Jacobs said.

As part of the project, the company installed improved lighting throughout the 260,000 square foot facility and repainted the exterior of the plant. APCOM also constructed a 20-foot berm along the rear lot line and planted more than 500 trees, shrubs, and grass to shield the plant from its residential neighbors and provide a sound barrier.

APCOM is a leading global manufacturer of reliable water heating and appliance components with plants in Franklin and Cookeville, Tenn., Florence, Ky., and Nanjing, China. Its products include heating elements, thermostats, anodes, dip tubes, drain valves, gas burner assemblies, pipe nipples, and ceramic coatings.

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