PRESS RELEASE
European Plastics Manufacturer to Invest $47 Million to Build U.S. Manufacturing Plant in Gaston County

GASTON COUNTY
Economic Development Commission

PREMIX GROUP TO LOCATE IN THE APPLE CREEK CORPORATE CENTER – GASTON COUNTY

MAY 6th, 2022 The Gaston County Economic Development Commission is pleased to announce that **Premix GROUP** has agreed to purchase property in the Apple Creek Corporate Center. Premix Group, a plastics manufacturer, will create more than **30 new jobs** in Gaston County, North Carolina Commerce Secretary Machelle Baker Sanders announced today. The company will invest **$47 million** to locate its first U.S. manufacturing facility in Gaston County.

"We are delighted to welcome Premix to North Carolina, where we have the largest manufacturing workforce in the southeastern United States," said Secretary Sanders. "Global companies need a world-class workforce to execute its advanced manufacturing expansions and our workforce development strategies and training partnerships will help support those expansions."

Based in Finland, Premix Group is a family-owned company that manufactures electrically conductive plastics. The company's plastic compounds have been distributed across the globe for more than three decades. Premix serves the automotive, diagnostics, electronics, life sciences, and other industrial sectors. The new facility will be in Gaston County's Apple Creek Corporate Center and will include manufacturing, warehouse, office, and lab space for its diagnostic testing operations.

"The new capacity will improve Premix's global supply capability and mitigate risks in global supply chains," says Jari-Matti Mehto, President and CEO of Premix, Inc. "With the new U.S. plant, we will improve our ability to serve our customers in the important U.S. market."

Although wages will vary for each position, the average annual salary for the new positions is $54,063, which exceeds Gaston County's overall average annual wage of $44,781. The new jobs have the potential to create an annual payroll impact of more than $1.7 million.

A performance-based grant of $75,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help with Premix's location to North Carolina. The One NC Fund provides financial assistance to local governments to help attract economic investment and to create jobs. Companies receive no money upfront and must meet job creation and capital investment targets to qualify for payment. All One NC grants require matching participation from local governments and any award is contingent upon that condition being met.

"Congratulations to Premix on selecting North Carolina and Gaston County for its first U.S. facility," said N.C. Senator Kathy Harrington. "We appreciate the diligent work of the local, state and regional partners that helped recruit this growing company to our community."

"This is outstanding news for our region and the entire state," said N.C. Representative John A. Torbett. "These new jobs and investments affirm Gaston County's reputation for international companies that want to their presence in the U.S. market."

Chad Brown, Chairman of the Gaston County Board of Commissioners stated "We are very excited to welcome Premix Group and are pleased to add this great addition to the newly developed Apple Creek Corporate Center. The commissioners invested in the industrial park so our County had the ability to recruit companies and create more jobs, which has proven to be successful. Premix Group is joining GNT USA, Inc. and Knoll America in the park and we will celebrate the official grand opening of Apple Creek Corporate Center on Tuesday, May 10th and look forward to Premix Group being a part of the celebration."

"As Chair of the Gaston County EDC, I want to extend our sincere appreciation to the Premix Group for announcing their newest manufacturing operation in Gaston County. This announcement is yet another example of how Gaston County is becoming known around the globe as a place to locate for manufacturing firms. The plastics cluster in our county continues to grow and we are grateful for the Premix Group's investment which will create quality jobs in our county" said Mrs. Julie Roper, Madam Chair of the Gaston County Economic Development Commission.

The Gaston County Economic Development Commission would like to thank our partners in this successful location of Premix Group – the Gaston County Board of Commissioners, Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation, Two Rivers Utilities, Gaston College, the North Carolina Community College System, the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, the N.C. Department of Commerce, and the North Carolina General Assembly.

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