



Auto, appliance supplier K-Tec to invest \$883K in expansion

By DAVID BENNETT

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Kinetic Technologies Inc., a company in Willoughby Hills that makes customized material handling carts for the automotive and appliance industries, is moving to Wickliffe and is preparing to spend nearly \$900,000 to expand its operations.

Kinetic president Larry Tyler said the nine-employee company will occupy a 109,000-square-foot leased building at 1350 Rockefeller Road when it moves in August. The company will invest \$883,000 in new equipment to fabricate its lines of material handling carts. Mr. Tyler said the ergonomic carts are gaining wider use in the automotive industry, where they are viewed as an efficient and safer alternative to traditional forklifts.

The company in late June received a seven-year, 35% tax credit from the Ohio Department of Development for the project, which is expected to create 40 jobs during the next three years.

Late last year, Kinetic was selected to design and manufacture forklift-free material handling systems for the new General Motors Corp. transmission plant in Warren, Mich. During that time, Kinetic also received a contract to supply similar systems to appliance maker Whirlpool Corp.

Kinetic's sales last year topped \$2 million, and Mr. Tyler said he expects sales to nearly double in 2006.

The Wickliffe building Kinetic soon will occupy has been vacant for about two years. It was last used by Royal Appliance Manufacturing Co. to assemble Dirt Devil vacuum cleaners.

Kinetic, which does business as K-Tec, contracts with at least five different local manufacturers to make the component parts for its product. The primary production work is done on East 69th Street in Cleveland.

However, plans call for the bulk of the manufacturing activity to shift to the new site by Sept 1. Mr. Tyler said the move will give Kinetic flexibility as it launches a string of product lines featuring standard-made carts that can be used in most manufacturing settings.

"We're knocking on wood that we can continue to expand," he said.

