

Battery maker to add 300 jobs in Pontiac expansion

By Nathan Bomey, Detroit Free Press 2:46 p.m. EST January 22, 2015

Energy Power Systems will make batteries for stop-start vehicles



(Photo: EPS)

Battery startup Energy Power Systems plans to add more than 300 jobs at a new manufacturing facility in Pontiac after signing a lease for 150,000 square feet of a former General Motors property.

The company, which has been developing its proprietary technology for years, is shifting into full-scale production with the expansion at the former GM Pontiac Centerpoint Central building.

Energy Power Systems is renting the space from Industrial Realty Group, which recently purchased the property from Revitalizing Automotive Communities Environmental Response (RACER), the GM bankruptcy trust.

"This is really the next stage for the company," said David Townsend, president of Townsend Ventures, which invested in Energy Power Systems. "We're transitioning from the R&D and pilot production into full-scale manufacturing. We've been searching for quite some time to find the right site."

The company plans to begin manufacturing in early 2016. It will make batteries for use in stop-start applications, a technology that allows vehicles to temporarily turn off their engines while stopped to conserve fuel. The batteries will also be sold to utilities for use in energy storage and will be used in fast-charging systems for electric vehicles.

The company said its initial production capacity would be about 500,000 batteries for start-stop vehicles.

"We are now launching the commercialization phase," said Subhash Dhar, CEO of EPS, in a statement. Dhar was out of the country and not available to comment.

The Energy Power Systems expansion marks the first tenant for Industrial Realty Group at the Pontiac Centerpoint Central campus, which is converting a 1.2 million-square-foot office facility into an industrial complex.

The company has revealed little about its battery technology.

"You can safely say the technology is going to offer a vastly superior power and life cycle than any existing available technologies," Townsend said.

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