

Ardagh Group

Roanoke County, Virginia

As they say, nothing happens in a vacuum. Economic development success stories can usually begin with a starting point, with a chain reaction following. In Roanoke County, Virginia, one of the starting points is Ardagh Group's \$93.5 million metal packaging manufacturing plant. This project represents largest single manufacturing investment in Roanoke County's history.

It began when Ardagh Group, a Luxembourg-based global leader in glass and metal packaging solutions for most of the world's leading food, beverage and consumer brands, signed a long-term supply agreement with ConAgra, a major customer. This necessitated that the company add capacity in the eastern United States.

The company, with more than 100 facilities and 18,000 employees in 25 countries, produces 26.6 billion containers a year. To accommodate the new ConAgra business, it needed to open a new facility. Ardagh Group selected Roanoke County over a handful of other locations.

The company is completely renovating an existing, cavernous building to accommodate manufacturing of 4.5 million cans per day, which represents approximately five percent of the total U.S. food can market. It expects to add 96 jobs to the local economy.

"We looked at many sites for our expansion and the decision to establish a Roanoke County facility was driven by factors such as the business tax structure, cost of living, infrastructure, logistic advantages, proximity to our major customer and the availability of skilled labor," said James Willich, CEO of Ardagh's metal packaging business in the U.S. "We look forward to beginning operations by the third quarter of 2014."

The economic benefits don't stop there. As a result of Ardagh's new facility, Canline Systems, a manufacturer of conveyor systems, recently chose to locate in Roanoke County.

"This represents the largest single manufacturing investment in Roanoke County's history, and we anticipate even greater long-term investments from the company and its suppliers. We're delighted that Ardagh has the confidence to invest in our region and we look forward to assisting them in this transition," said Michael Altizer, who was chairman of the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors at the time of the announcement.



From left to right: Roanoke County, Virginia, officials, Richard Flora, former member of Roanoke County Board of Supervisors and Former Chairman of the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors Mike Altizer present James Willich, CEO Ardagh Metal Packaging USA with the Roanoke County flag, welcoming him and Ardagh Group to the community.