

Midlink

Business Park

Extraordinary place.
Extraordinary space.



For Immediate Release

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Contact: Galen De Young
616-235-1122 ext. 31 or gdeyoung@francis-marketing.com

340-Acre Midlink Business Park Opens For Business **2.2 million sq. ft. former GM plant renovated and rebranded, officials now** **launching nationwide efforts to market world-class, tax-free business park**

(Comstock Township, MI) Renovations are complete at the former 2.2 million square foot General Motors Stamping Plant at Cork and Sprinkle Roads in Comstock Township. Midlink Business Park officials are now undertaking nationwide efforts to market the 340-acre property, complete with 110 acres and two buildings totaling 1.6 million square feet located within a Tax-Free Renaissance Zone. And their efforts are getting noticed.

"Midlink Business Park is ready to handle virtually any request for space between 25,000 and 850,000 square feet," Midlink Business Park President David Smith says. "Midlink's 110 acres with two flexible, state-of-the-art buildings totaling nearly 1.6 million square feet are virtually tax-free to any tenant through 2017," Smith adds, referring to the Tax-Free Renaissance Zone designation awarded to Midlink by the State of Michigan, which calls for nearly all state and local taxes to be waived for the next 12 years. The tax abatements available to tenants include the Michigan Single Business Tax, personal property taxes, and nearly all real property taxes.

Because the two buildings offer flexible, state-of-the-art space, just about any type of company could call Midlink home. "Midlink's East and West Buildings (as they're now called) can handle just about any type of business need," says Comstock Township Supervisor Tim Hudson, commenting on how Midlink undertook a major renovation of the former 2.2 million square foot GM plant. "To convert the existing site to a multi-tenant, logistics-friendly facility, we knocked down the center portion of the mammoth building and replaced it with a road that allows convenient access to the core of the property for any transportation vehicle," adds Midlink's Smith. "We've left in place the heavy-duty cranes, some with 50-ton capacity. And, we've kept the CN and Norfolk Southern rail lines in place. We welcome the opportunity to show prospective tenants just how flexible a 1.6 million square foot property can be. It is an ideal location for manufacturing and assembly, warehousing, logistics, distribution, research and development, as well as for retail and office space."

In 1999, Hackman Capital Partners of Los Angeles (the manager of Midlink Business Park) acquired the site and its buildings and equipment from General Motors and launched the plan to redevelop the former stamping plant. "When GM ceased its operations here, it left a lot of people without jobs—and the idled facility was a constant reminder of loss to the community," Smith said. "Today, through renovating and rebranding the entire site into what will be a world-class business park, there are now positive perceptions of life, growth, and a vibrant, changing business community."

Today, the building is once again full of activity, and it's more than just the Midlink staff that are promoting the building. The partnership between Midlink Business Park management, Charter Township of Comstock, and Southwest Michigan First has emerged to include these other important players: the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), the City of Kalamazoo, and Kalamazoo County.

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Page Two

"Southwest Michigan First believes that Midlink Business Park will build a lot of new jobs for the region. It's an important and exciting part of revitalizing the business community here," says Vice President of Southwest Michigan First Jill Bland.

"Never has Kalamazoo seen a bigger commitment of a developer such as Midlink dedicated to the redevelopment of the manufacturing sector like this," Tim Hudson says. "Comstock Township feels the most unique aspect of this is the partnership and collaboration not just between Comstock Township and Midlink, but from everyone from the governor's office to the Kalamazoo County Drain Office, and from the City of Kalamazoo to the City of Battle Creek."

Midlink business development and marketing staff are maintaining busy schedules as they field requests for information on the facility. One unique aspect of the sales process at Midlink is the facility tour. Prospects that visit the site are treated to a chauffeured ride through the property.

2005 is expected to be a very busy year at Midlink Business Park, and the community could benefit from some good economic development news coming from the former GM plant that left thousands jobless.

Midlink expects to announce its first tenants later this month.

"A corporation can come to Midlink Business Park and expand—and they never have to leave the confines of the park. Midlink Business Park can really help a business grow through our incredible infrastructure and the available tax incentives," summarizes Smith.

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About Midlink

Midlink Business Park is strategically located in Kalamazoo, Michigan, along the I-94 corridor, midway between Chicago and Detroit. The world-class development offers 1.6 million square feet of multi-tenant configurable space, including truck bays, 20' to 42' ceiling heights, high-capacity electrical, heavy-duty bridge cranes, and dual rail service. Midlink is developing a business community that will be the place to be in Southwest Michigan. The 340-acre site offers opportunities for manufacturing, logistics, R&D/flex, office, and retail development. Midlink has been designated a State of Michigan Renaissance Zone, thereby offering substantial tax abatements and incentives. To learn more about Midlink Business Park, visit the company's web site at www.midlinkbusinesspark.com or contact Midlink toll free at (866) 708-0800.

Media Information

Interviews and tours are available with officials from Midlink Business Park. Please contact Galen De Young at Francis Marketing at 616-235-1122 ext. 31 or gdeyoung@francis-marketing.com to arrange an interview or request additional information. For more information on Midlink Business Park, please go to www.midlinkbusinesspark.com