



Moline Machinery LLC
P.O. Box 16308
Duluth, Minnesota 55816-0308

Phone: 218-624-5734
www.moline.com

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Moline Machinery LLC has broken ground on a 25,000 sq ft addition to its 114 S Central Ave facility in West Duluth. When complete in 2019, the space will be a world class machining and metal fabrication operation to support Moline's industrial bakery machinery product line.

"This project has been in the planning phase for 3 years and is quite complex," said Dan Moline, VP Operations. "We have 5 buildings and over 100,000 sq ft of space, but not the right space in several areas to compete with formidable manufacturers based in Germany, Holland and Asia. We need more advanced CNC machine tools arranged in productive work cells and our existing space would not accommodate this." The addition will be primarily high bay with multiple overhead cranes, heavy floors and advanced controls to accommodate the new machinery and welding processes.

The project involves many upgrades to an existing building originally built in the 1930's. Vacated manufacturing space resulting from the addition will be converted to office areas for engineers and programmers. Amenities for employees will also be added and when complete, the building will be a modern, efficient facility. It will also open up assembly space in Moline's adjacent building to add capacity for more sales.

"Our business has been very strong the last several years and we expect this to continue," advised company President, Gary Moline. "We have great people here that have developed and sold highly automated systems for the production of sweet goods and bread products that are in demand. Our customer base includes major food companies in North America and last year over 50% of our sales were exported to Canada, Europe and the Middle East." Moline added that their backlog is currently close to 1 year and this project will help reduce that time frame.

Moline Machinery expects to invest over \$9 million in the facility and process equipment over the next 2 years and is financing the project without development assistance. Krech Ojard and Associates of Duluth is the lead engineering firm on the project and Johnson Wilson Constructors, also based in Duluth, is the general contractor.

