



## Prospects, Progress & Partnerships

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# Black Hawk Helicopters Land in Chemung County

Sikorsky Aircraft and Chemung County recently announced a partnership that will result in a new 97,000 square foot Military Derivatives Completion Center in Big Flats. The company will locate in a building constructed and owned by the Chemung County Industrial Development Agency, on property

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leased from Chemung County at the Elmira Corning Regional Airport.

The Sikorsky HAWK WORKS @ Schweizer Aircraft,

as the facility is to be named, will be used to complete BLACK HAWK military helicopter derivatives. The facility will also have capacity to work on other special mission aircraft currently produced at Schweizer, and positions Schweizer to acquire additional military work in the future. The facility can be expanded to 150,000 square feet if business conditions warrant. Sikorsky currently employs 475 people in Chemung County in its existing 150,000-square foot facility at the Elmira Corning Regional Airport. The company is committed to creating a minimum of 100 new jobs at the new facility. Construction will begin this summer; the facility is scheduled to open in Spring 2007.

"This is an important step in our long range corporate strategy to increase capacity in order to meet growing demand for military products," said Jeffrey Pino, Sikorsky president.

Under the partnership agreement, the Chemung County IDA will invest \$13 million to construct the new facility and provide equipment. The CCIDA will then lease the facility and equipment to Schweizer Aircraft Corporation for a period of 15 years. The company will have multiple options to extend the lease. Financing for the project includes a capital grant from the Empire State Development Corporation, and additional

grant funds secured by New York State Governor George Pataki, New York State Senator George Winner, Jr. and New York State Assemblyman Thomas O'Mara, along with incentives available through the Elmira Empire Zone.

Chemung County Executive Thomas Santulli and Southern Tier Economic Growth President George Miner, who serves as staff to the Chemung County IDA, negotiated the project with Schweizer Aircraft Corporation/Sikorsky.

*(continued on page 3)*



*Governor George Pataki congratulates company officials, employees, and local leaders during the announcement of Sikorsky Hawkworks @ Schweizer Aircraft. The announcement will mean the addition of 100 new jobs to build Blackhawk helicopters in Chemung County, NY.*

## Local Manufacturer Comes to Aid of Injured Barbaro

In 2001, when orthopedic implant manufacturer SYNTHES announced they were building a new manufacturing facility in Chemung County, NY and hiring 300 employees, the company said that they were in the business of saving lives. At the time, no one considered the fact that the lives being saved may not always be



human. When Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro broke his right hind leg during the running of the Preakness, the locking compression plate used to repair the horse's leg was made at the SYNTHES plant in Big Flats.

*The locking compression plate shown in this x-ray used to repair the broken leg of Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro was made in Chemung County by SYNTHES.*

The plates and screws used on the thoroughbred are widely used in hospitals around the world. The plate, made from stainless steel using a formula a body will tolerate and used for Barbaro's ankle, would be appropriate for a large adult's thigh bone, according to Christopher Scholl, the director of the company's Vet Division.

The locking compression plate is a relatively new technology developed by SYNTHES and the AO ASIF surgeon group. The novel feature of the implants is that the screws lock into the bone plate via threads in the screw head, which provides a rigid implant that can withstand a larger weight load.

Ron Lerner, general manager of the Big Flats plant and STEG board member, said the Big Flats employees are proud to know their work played a part in this story.

"We often hear of injuries to people we know who are treated with our implants, and the same sense of pride felt by the SYNTHES employees is a motivating factor in the excellent quality built into our products," added Lerner.

SYNTHES moved into its new manufacturing facility last fall and currently has nearly 250 employees. The company expects to meet its 300-person job commitment within the next 12 months.

## The Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program

Southern Tier Economic Growth (STEG) recently added another tool to its chest of economic development programs to help entrepreneurs and small businesses take their companies to the next level.

We are pleased to announce our affiliation with the NASA-funded Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program, otherwise known as SATOP. SATOP offers up to 40 hours of FREE technical assistance utilizing the vast engineering expertise of NASA and over 50 participating Alliance Partners — NASA contractors, sub-contractors and universities such as Boeing, the University of New Mexico, Sandia National Labs, Sensis and Raytheon.

SATOP is designed to speed the transfer of US Space Program knowledge and technology to the private sector, provide economic benefits to the community and raise public awareness of the Space Program. From centers in Syracuse, as well as Florida, Texas and New Mexico, SATOP has helped over 1,850 companies with machine design, process engineering, material selection, moisture control, fluid analysis, and many other technical issues. Areas of expertise include (but are not limited to) mechanical, manufacturing, industrial, materials, structural, chemical, electrical, and environmental engineering.



Local manufacturer SEPAC knows first hand the impact SATOP services can have on a business. In 2005, SATOP partnered the company with an

engineer from Design by Analysis who was able to perform a sensitivity analysis on brake components that SEPAC manufactured for use in jet engines. The results of the analysis provided the company with the information necessary to make lighter parts with the same strength and reliability as heavier components previously used.

STEG believes the new partnership with SATOP will offer similar opportunities to other companies in Chemung County. As a contracted agent, STEG will be promoting the program to Chemung County businesses and providing referrals to SATOP.

You can find out more about SATOP — and even initiate your request for assistance — by submitting a brief, one page Request for Technical Assistance (RTA) form online at <http://www.spacetechnolutions.com> or by contacting STEG (607) 733-6513. A SATOP project engineer will contact you to discuss the RTA and pair you up with an appropriate Alliance Partner engineer to assist you with your technical challenge.



Construction will begin this summer on the new 97,000 square foot Military Derivatives Completion Center at the Elmira Corning Regional Airport in Big Flats, NY.

## Black Hawks Land in Chemung County *(continued from page 1)*

“This is a very exciting project for Chemung County and New York State,” Santulli noted. “Schweizer Aircraft Corporation has been in Chemung County for a very long time and is a leader in innovation in the aviation industry. Schweizer has been providing parts for Sikorsky Black Hawk helicopters for years. To be now making them here will only increase their reputation as a leader in military aircraft manufacturing. I am happy that the hard work of the Chemung County IDA, STEG and our state and local government officials helped to bring this project and these excellent manufacturing jobs to Chemung County.”

“We have been eyeing the west end of the airport for a project like this for the past few years,” Miner added. “The infrastructure that the Chemung County IDA and the State of New York have invested in the Airport Corporate Park and Interchange 50 of Interstate 86 was key to making this project happen. We planned and invested in the location but never knew what would land there.”

“The arrival of these new Schweizer Aircraft jobs will be exciting and energizing for Chemung County and the Southern Tier. I’m grateful for the opportunity to help make this investment in our long-term economic foundation,” said Winner, Jr. “This expansion of Schweizer Aircraft

maintains our region as a leader in the aviation manufacturing industry.”

“This is a very exciting project which will have a tremendously positive impact on local job creation,” O’Mara said. “Schweizer Aircraft has been at the heart of manufacturing in the community for decades. Their expansion is a great shot in the arm for the local economy and a testament to the quality work force we have here.”

Schweizer Aircraft Corporation, based in Big Flats, New York, was incorporated in 1939 and is a manufacturer of light helicopters, unmanned air vehicles, and fixed wing aircraft.

Sikorsky Aircraft acquired Schweizer Aircraft in September

2004. Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation, based in Stratford, Conn., is a world leader in the design, manufacture and service of advanced helicopters for commercial, industrial and military uses. Sikorsky is a subsidiary of United Technologies Corporation of Hartford, Conn., which provides a broad range of high-technology products and support services to the aerospace and building systems industries.

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## Economic Development Strategy Inked

Chemung County was recently awarded grants secured by STEG through the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Governor's Office of Small Cities to conduct an economic development strategy for Chemung County. In May, STEG contracted with Laberge Group to administer the strategy, which

*STEG contracted with Laberge Group to administer Chemung County's first countywide strategy in over a decade.*

will be Chemung County's first countywide strategy in over a decade.

An industrial mix analysis will be conducted to identify business trends and opportunities, and measure the economic viability of the community. A community resources inventory will be developed to review the county's economic development infrastructure (available sites, buildings,

workforce training, sewer, water, electricity, telecommunications, etc). Another valuable tool will be an industrial survey of 700 industrial/manufacturing/technology based businesses in Chemung County's Labor Shed, including Chemung, Tioga, Steuben, Tompkins and Schuyler Counties in New York and Bradford and Tioga counties in Pennsylvania. The survey will identify the potential for inter-firm commonalities, the concentration of skill sets relative to the state and nation, and growth of business clusters relative to state and national trends.

Chemung County Executive Tom Santulli and the County Legislature appointed an Economic Development Strategy Committee earlier this year, comprised of government, planning, business and economic development leaders. The strategy will be completed in the fall of 2006.

## Shovel Ready

The White Wagon Road Industrial Park in Chemung, New York received "Shovel Ready" certification under the Build Now New York Program in June 2006. The 170-acre site, now under development by STEG, was awarded a grant in 2004 to help offset the costs related to professional services including engineering, environmental assessments and archaeological review (necessary to comply with New York State's Environmental Quality Review Act ["SEQRA"]).



"Shovel Ready certification substantially expedites any construction project. It's what site consultants are looking for and starting to expect," said STEG president George Miner.

Governor Pataki, whose administration initiated the Build Now NY program in 1999, said the program "will put New York State in the best competitive position to attract new industries, new companies and new jobs."

In 1999, the 150-acre Airport Corporate Park received Shovel Ready certification. The 200-acre Airport Corporate Park South site is currently in the process of certification under Build Now NY.