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Unique Pretzel gets \$8.5 million financing for expansion

The sixth generation bakery will build and expand in Muhlenberg Township.

Reading Eagle

Unique Pretzel Bakery Inc., Muhlenberg Township, said Tuesday that the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development approved its application for \$8.5 million in tax-exempt bond financing for a planned expansion, which will support about 24 new jobs.

The loan package was arranged through Customers Bank, which worked with the Berks County Industrial Development Authority and Unique Pretzel Bakery officials.

The expansion plans call for construction of a 37,500 square foot warehouse and a new 36,000 square foot manufacturing plant, featuring new baking ovens and state-of-the-art processing.

The expansion will take place at a 4.6-acre site on the north side of Unique Pretzel's existing facility near East Bellevue Avenue and Plaza Drive in Muhlenberg Township. Dolan Construction Inc., Reading, is the contractor.

"We are very excited by the opportunity that this project represents," said Bill Spannuth, chief financial officer for Unique Pretzel Bakery. "Not only in terms of the increased production capacity that the new facility will provide, but also in the range of new job opportunities that it brings - both in permanent jobs at the new plant as well as a host of other employment opportunities relating to the overall construction project and subsequent business support needs."

Unique Pretzel Bakery is a 120-year-old family-owned business founded in Reading during the late 1800s that has grown for six generations.

Faced with steadily increasing demand for the company's range of products, Unique Pretzel Bakery needed to increase production capacity to keep pace.