

Web.com chooses Greater Hazleton facility for reshored technology jobs

Greater Hazleton has proven on numerous occasions that it possesses an abundance of available employees who are highly skilled at a variety of business and industry positions and are dedicated to effectively doing their jobs every day.

This was evident again earlier this year when internet services company Web.com chose to reshore 74 jobs from the Philippines to its facility in the CAN DO Corporate Center in Drums, increasing the company's workforce to nearly 350 employees.

Governor Tom Wolf conducted a press conference at the Drums facility to officially announce the completion of the reshoring efforts. Wolf spoke highly of the many positive attributes companies will find in Greater Hazleton.

Wolf said, "Other than the natural beauty, the attraction for this area is the good people who live here, the good skills they have and the real opportunities for companies like this to find real talent. I think there is a lot of quality of life here. You have high-tech companies like this with objective criteria looking all over the world and they said they want to be in Drums."

The economic development and financial resources that are available to businesses from a local, regional and statewide level is another element that makes locating jobs in Greater Hazleton an attractive solution for



Governor Tom Wolf speaks to the media about Web.com's decision to reshore 74 jobs from the Philippines to the company's Drums location.

businesses. Officials from CAN DO, Inc., the Governor's Action Team and Pennsylvania CareerLink Luzerne County collaborated to provide assistance to Web.com to help locate the reshored jobs in Drums. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania provided financial incentives, including tax credits and on-the-job training funds.

The CareerLink staff helped Web.com conduct several job fairs to place qualified employees in the positions.

The Department of Community and Economic Development put together its own package that included Job Creation Tax Credits, a Pennsylvania First Program grant and WEDnetPA funding for employee training.

Web.com operates in CAN DO's business park out of a 39,429 square-foot building with room for expansion. The CAN DO Corporate Center is located just off of Interstate 80 and minutes from the junction with Interstate 81. The Corporate Center is an ideal location for businesses offering a state-of-the-art telecommunications system, a fiber-optic network and available dedicated Internet.

CAN DO received the prestigious Arthur D. Little Organization Environmental Excellence in Economic Development Award for our "Terrarium Concept" design of the Corporate Center setting a new standard for environmentally conscious development in the region.



Governor Tom Wolf poses for a photograph with Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce President Mary Malone, left; CAN DO Vice President Joseph Lettiere, and PA Representative Tarah Toohil in photo on top at left. At left bottom, Governor Wolf tours the customer support center at Web.com, and above, the governor is led on the tour by Jeff Kimmel, Vice President for Customer Service at Web.com.

RBMN gives Greater Hazleton industries personalized access to short line rail carrier

Industries thrive in Greater Hazleton's Humboldt Industrial Park because of the area's competitive operating costs and strategic location near the crossroads of Interstates 80 and 81. Another added benefit is immediate access to the quality railroad system that runs directly through several sections of the 3,000-acre park.

When Reading Blue Mountain & Northern Railroad (RBMN) assumed ownership of the tracks of CAN DO's Humboldt Industrial Park on January 1, companies in Greater Hazleton immediately saw the benefits they would receive from the rail carrier's personalized service and quality access to rail transportation for their goods and services.

Reading Blue Mountain & Northern is the largest privately owned railroad company in Pennsylvania and was the only railroad to be named Regional Railroad of the Year three times by Railway Age Magazine.

The short line rail carrier runs a scheduled service that provides additional rail switches when business needs warrant them. RBMN also offers railcar storage and personalized service for each business customer. Each customer has their own local account representative and a plan that guarantees them their own service window and up to six-days-a-week service that meets their needs.

More than 15 industries in the Humboldt Industrial Park are dependent on rail service from Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad across the park's 7.5 miles of track. The number of rail cars that move through Humboldt, the region's largest rail-served industrial park, each year recently surpassed 4,600.



According to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Pennsylvania ranks first in the country in the number of operating railroads with 63 and near the top in total track mileage with more than 5,600 miles. After just three months of service, Humboldt Industrial Park companies are already seeing how personalized service from Reading Blue Mountain & Northern Railroad improves their operations.

Tracy Karchner of Karchner Logistics said, "Rail service within the industrial parks is a critical component in the delivery of raw materials and finished goods for the occupants within the parks. Our company has benefited by enabling our customers to have their materials shipped directly to our warehouses, thus reducing their transportation costs. Different items ship better by rail and it becomes a more efficient process for all parties involved. CAN DO's efforts in promoting the availability of rail service within their parks has resulted in various companies deciding to locate here, as opposed to elsewhere."

CAN DO President Kevin O'Donnell said, "Rail service is critical to many industries. CAN DO's parks wouldn't have the number of employers that they do without the immediate access to rail transportation. Having rail-served sites has proven to be an attractive and enticing commodity for companies that choose to locate here."

Humboldt Industrial Park has various rail-access properties available. These include a 46-acre site along Forest Road in Humboldt East that is ideal for a 470,000 square-foot facility, as well as a 33-acre property along Commerce Drive in Humboldt East that is near pad-ready and has approvals for a 455,000 square-foot facility.

Shovel-ready industrial site with interstate visibility available in Greater Hazleton

CAN DO adds another shovel ready site to its already significant portfolio. A 52.7-acre site with immediate access to Interstate 81 and all utilities in place right at the curb is available in the Humboldt Industrial Park in Hazle Township, Pennsylvania.

The site was recently rezoned from general commercial to industrial and is suitable for manufacturing, distribution and logistics companies. It has a dual water source and easy access into and out of the park via Interstate 81 and State Route 924. It has prime visibility from Interstate 81 and is just eight miles from Interstate 80. All utilities are located at the property boundary, including water and sewer, electric and natural gas. An abundance of power is available via an adjacent substation. The site is within the designated Keystone Opportunity Zone and all local property taxes are abated through December 31, 2017.

CAN DO, Inc. Vice President Joe Lettiere said, "Humboldt Industrial Park contains companies of various sizes across many industry sectors but they came to the same realization when locating here: that their facilities are productive and profitable within the Hazleton market. They are seeing the advantages of Greater Hazleton in not only its location and tax incentives but also the workforce and we encourage other companies to come to Humboldt Industrial Park and capitalize on these incentives."



The 3,000-acre Humboldt Industrial Park is located just off Exit 143 of Interstate 81 along State Route 924 for easy access into and out of the park. Humboldt Industrial Park has 60 industries and 10,000 employees. Many open sites have utilities stretching right to the existing curbs for easy access including water, sewer, natural gas, electrical and telecommunications.

Additionally, Humboldt is the region's largest rail-served industrial park with more than seven miles of track. The park is an ideal home for companies in any industry including food processing, manufacturing, logistics, distribution and retail and commercial. For more information on Site 106, please contact CAN DO at 570-455-1508 or visit www.hazletoncando.com.

CAN DO expands its real estate portfolio with Humboldt Industrial Park building purchase

When a group of investors decided they wanted to sell their investment property in Humboldt Industrial Park, CAN DO, Inc. stepped in and purchased the building to ensure that its tenant, plastics manufacturer Pretium Packaging, could continue its operations without interruption.

The 123,000-square-foot facility on Forest Road became the latest investment in CAN DO's real estate portfolio. "We wanted to ensure that Pretium Packaging remains in Hazleton and continues to provide jobs for its approximately 150 employees," said Joseph Lettiere, CAN DO's Vice President.

Pretium Packaging, which is the largest manufacturer of plastic bottles and containers in the United States, makes polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polyethylene and polyurethane plastic jars for the food processing industry. The company began as Pocono PET in 1985 and joined the Pretium family in 1998. Pretium has expanded three times and doubled the size of the original Humboldt building since purchasing it 18 years ago.

Pretium Packaging was recently featured in *Plastics Technology* magazine. Company officials spoke in depth about the Hazleton facility, which is



Pretium's largest plant in terms of revenue as well as its largest PET molding plant. The Hazleton facility does at least five changeovers a day in order to service 170 different customers in 400 locations.

Tom Ensley, director of manufacturing at Pretium's Hazleton facility, told the magazine that the local plant was the best one-step PET facility he's ever worked in and lauded the abilities of the Greater Hazleton workforce. He said, "The staff is very talented. They are very good at changeovers, which are very well organized."

We CAN DO Food blog showcases Greater Hazleton's benefits for food processing industry companies

Greater Hazleton has positioned itself as an ideal location for businesses in the food processing industry due to its strategic location near the crossroads of Interstate 80 and 81 and its dedicated and highly-skilled workforce.

CAN DO, Inc. is focused on bringing food processing industries to the area to take advantage of the region's many qualities, including the competitive operating environment, an abundant water supply and rail service. The organization promotes its ability to serve the food processing industry through its We CAN DO Food blog at www.wecandofood.com.

The blog features stories that showcase Greater Hazleton's growing food processing industry cluster and the positive attributes companies will find here. In addition to featuring testimonials from local companies, the blog provides information on training programs, financial incentives and other services that are available through CAN DO's many partner organizations.

CAN DO Vice President Joseph Lettiere said, "CAN DO is targeting companies in the food processing industry because we feel Greater Hazleton is the right community for those companies to do business. These companies provide good, family-sustaining jobs and our superb location at the intersection of Interstates 80 and 81 can't be beat."



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