



Marinette Marine to Build Coast Guard Ships in Green Bay

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By [Emily Matesic](#)

As stocks and the banking industry remain in limbo, there is good economic news in Green Bay. Shipbuilder Marinette Marine is expanding on the banks of the Fox River.

Action 2 News learned Thursday the company known for building large military warships will now build small, fast, 45-foot aluminum Coast Guard boats in Green Bay.

The old K & K warehouse on Green Bay's west side is undergoing renovations at a cost of two- to four-million dollars. Then Marinette Marine expects to begin building the Coast Guard boats -- 15 a year -- by the beginning of 2009.

Company officials tell us because the ships it builds in Marinette now are made of steel, it couldn't build the aluminum boats at the same facility, leading to Marinette Marine's expansion to Green Bay.

"To mix steel and aluminum production in the same facility is not a good thing because you run the risk of contamination of the aluminum product," VP/GM Richard McCreary explained.

Mayor Jim Schmitt says when Marinette Marine was looking for a place to build the aluminum boats, Green Bay was able to offer the company exactly what it was looking for.

"I think you have a location that's pretty much ready to go. It was, as you may know, Northwest Manufacturing years ago. It's set up. The cost of making it work for them was within their budget," Schmitt said.

The mayor also said, "We have the workforce that could support that type of industry. Through their analysis, they decided to make the commitment here in Green Bay and we're just delighted with that."

Marinette Marine says about ten workers can expect to be hired by the end of this year.

"It will be a slow startup. We only anticipate about ten by the end of the year and then maybe fifty by the end of 2009," McCreary said.

Mayor Schmitt tells us the addition of Marinette Marine is exactly what the city was looking and hoping for.

"It's going to be an impact. It's going to be great to have the jobs, but these people will have enough income to support the small businesses in the area and live a good life here in Green Bay."



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