

Laticrete plant progressing

Officials
break ground
as workers
build above

Erin DeMuth

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Local dignitaries and Laticrete International Inc. representatives had to talk over the rumble of heavy equipment Tuesday during the company's groundbreaking ceremony in the Richmond County Industrial Park near Hamlet.

But the rumble was a welcome sound of progress.

"They're not even stopping for us today," Ron Munnerlyn said. "Laticrete is on a fast track."

Munnerlyn is Richmond County's director of development.

The company made a fast track deal last December when it decided to open its next tile adhesive



Munnerlyn

Fast track

■ The Laticrete tile adhesive and grout plant will open this fall with 75 new jobs.

and grout manufacturing plant in Richmond County this fall.

Evidence of the promise to be up and running in the coming months literally loomed overhead as crews worked on the skeleton of the Laticrete facility during the ceremony.

The caliber of Richmond County leaders has made this progress possible, said James Bouldin, Laticrete vice president of operations.

"They provided the support we needed to really move forward quickly," Bouldin said.

Ed Metcalf, president of the North America Division, agreed with Bouldin when he discussed the company's original plan to build in the Northeast.

"If we had gone ahead with



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Butch Farrah, chairman of the Richmond County Economic Development Team; Kenneth Robinette, chairman of the Richmond County Board of Commissioners; James Bouldin, Laticrete International Inc. vice president of operations; and Ed Metcalf, Laticrete president of the North America division, ceremoniously break ground Tuesday in the Richmond County Industrial Park. Laticrete plans to open its plant this fall.

this expansion in Connecticut, they'd still be grading the dirt," Metcalf said.

Local leaders offered just as much return praise to the industry for its decision to locate here and the positive

impact it will have on Richmond County.

Laticrete will fill the majority of its 75 vacant positions with local residents, and will generate roughly \$78,000 a year in property taxes, Munnerlyn said previously.

The company's plant will span 75,000 square feet and represent more than a \$10 million investment, said Kenneth Robinette, chairman of the Richmond County Board of Commissioners.

"We just want to thank Laticrete for having such confidence in Richmond County," he said.

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