



AirBoss - Defense

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February 17, 2010

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Governor Douglas Welcomes AirBoss-Defense To Vermont

20 to 30 New Jobs To Be Created At New Milton Manufacturing Facility

MILTON, Vt. – Vermont Governor Jim Douglas on Wednesday officially welcomed AirBoss Defense to the state at the company's new Milton plant, where the manufacturer will produce gloves to protect troops and first responders from chemical, nuclear, or biological hazards.

“This is a great day for not only both AirBoss and Vermont, but for the men and women who will use this safety equipment,” Douglas said. “They get state of the art protection; the company gets increased production capacity nearer a key market, and Vermont reaps the benefit of good jobs.”

Earl Laurie, Divisional President for AirBoss-Defense, said the company expected to have as many as 30 new workers on the job by month's end in the combination manufacturing and distribution center located at the Catamount Industrial park in Milton, just north of Burlington, Vermont.

“We have invested close to \$2,000,000 in equipment, installations and renovations at this site,” Laurie said at a Grand Opening ceremony at the plant. “The state has been very welcoming, and their assistance with job creation incentives and workforce training has helped make this a reality.”

Last year the Vermont Economic Progress Council approved AirBoss-Defense for \$243,280 in Vermont Employment Growth Incentives, and the state's Vermont Training Program recently inked a deal to provide \$75,000 to help train 32 new workers at the plant.

“We have already begun preliminary packing and shipping activities late last year, and are now ramping up full production, as well as distribution activities for all of our products,” Laurie said.

As a sole source supplier to the U.S. Department of Defense for their Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (“CBRN”) gloves and footwear AirBoss expects to expand production

rapidly in Vermont if its recently developed Next Generation molded overboot is adopted by the U.S. military.

AirBoss-Defense is the defense products division of AirBoss of America Corp., a world leader in the design, manufacture and sale of CBRN protective wear, including gloves, footwear and respiratory protection (gas masks).

AirBoss of America Corp. develops, manufactures, and sells high quality, proprietary rubber-based products offering enhanced performance and productivity to the transport, military and industrial markets.

With a capacity to supply over 250 million pounds of rubber annually to a diverse group of rubber manufacturers, AirBoss is also one of North America's largest custom rubber compounding companies. The Company's shares trade on the TSX under the symbol BOS. Visit www.airbossofamerica.com.

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